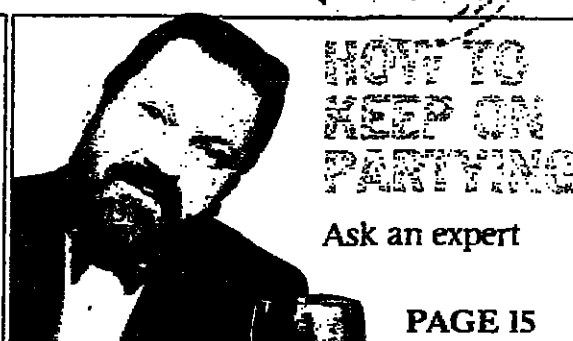




BEAUTY SECRETS FOR BOXING DAY

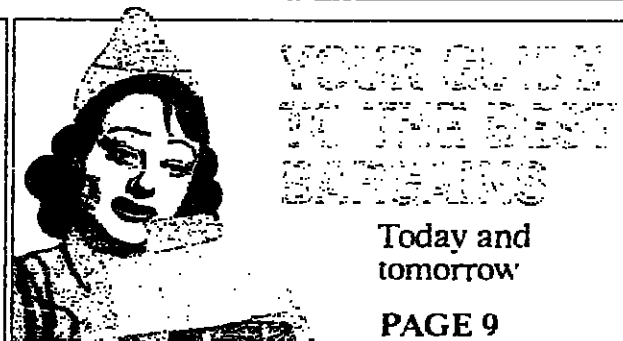
PAGE 14



HOW TO KEEP ON PARTYING

Ask an expert

PAGE 15



YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST BUREAUS

Today and tomorrow

PAGE 9



MACQUARIE

Power cut for thousands of families

Ten are killed as hurricanes sweep Britain

By RUSSELL JENKINS AND BILL HOFFMANN

HURRICANE force winds raged across Britain on Christmas Eve and yesterday, leaving five people dead, five French fishermen feared drowned in the Irish Sea, thousands of people without power and scores of roads blocked by fallen trees and masonry.

As the emergency services battled to cope, a fresh wave of storms with winds gusting up to 70 mph swept across London and much of southern England last night.

Rescuers sought in vain for a French trawler believed to have sunk 35 miles off the coast of West Wales.

For 70,000 homes there was no power on Christmas Day. Electricity companies drafted in an army of workers who struggled in continuing bad weather to restore power.

Weathermen said the storms were the worst to hit the British Isles since December, 1993. The abnormally high winds had been building up over the Atlantic in a series of depressions for a week. Hurricane-force winds of 111 mph were registered at Aberdaron, on the Llyn Peninsula, North Wales and 101 mph at the Valentia Observatory in County Kerry.

The full force was unleashed on Northern Ireland, the North West and North Wales, where emergency services were inundated with 999 calls. The West Country, Lancashire, Cumbria, Yorkshire and the Midlands were also badly affected.

Lancashire, especially Blackpool and Lytham St Anne's, Cheshire, North Wales, and Cumbria suffered most from the power failures. Winds of 90 mph toppled a section of Blackpool's north pier and about 100 yards of jetty was washed away. In the East Midlands thousands were blacked out and helicopters were used to survey the damage. Extra staff were brought from Scotland.

In Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, a boiler house chimney which tilted ten degrees threatened to fall on their homes.

Five deaths were blamed directly on the weather.

A 32-year-old woman, from Stoke-on-Trent, was killed in Bromborough, on the Wirral, when a tree crushed the car she was driving. And a woman driving a Nissan died and her passenger was injured in a collision with another car in the Penny Lane area of Liverpool. In Caernarfon a 25-year-old man was killed in a motorcycle crash.

Paul Griffiths, 26, from Bridgend, Glamorgan, was killed when he was blown into the paths of two oncoming cars.

A 19-year-old man, who died in Waterville, County Kerry, Ireland, was trapped under rubble when the wall of a disused dance hall was blown down. His brother escaped with only slight injuries.

Firemen and tree surgeons freed a couple from a car after an accident at Bexleyheath, in south-east London.

On the Wirral Peninsula, Merseyside, the local council declared an emergency after falling trees caused two serious accidents and closed a number of roads.

On the M53 an ambulance carrying a kidney to hospital for a transplant was involved in a 10-vehicle pile-up in which four people were hurt when a tree fell on to the carriageway.

Inspector Colin Davidson, of Merseyside Police, said the situation at the height of the gale was "like the wild west".

At sea the search for the missing French trawler began on Christmas Eve after an emergency beacon was picked up from the 50-foot Brittany-based vessel, *Toul an Trez*, which had a crew of five. Swansea coastguards said the ship had been captured by huge waves created by 65mph winds.

Wreckage believed to be from the vessel was found near where the emergency beacon was found.

Five helicopters, two RAF Nimrod reconnaissance aircraft and British and French fishing vessels were engaged in the search yesterday afternoon. Two of the helicopters carried heat-seeking equipment.

In Northern Ireland the gales swept in from the west

Continued on page 3, col 1



Prince Harry and Prince William were given presents by well-wishers after attending Christmas morning service on the Sandringham estate

Diana recalled in prayers and on TV

By EMMA WILKINS AND ALAN HAMILTON

PRINCE William and Prince Harry showed maturity beyond their years yesterday as they coped with their first Christmas since the death of their mother, Diana, Princess of Wales.

They smiled and chatted to elderly and disabled people in the crowds outside St Mary Magdalene church on the Sandringham estate after attending the traditional Christmas Day service with other members of the Royal Family.

Prince William, 15, and Prince Harry, 13, spent several minutes talking to some of the 2,000 people outside the church. The crowd was larger than usual but the atmosphere was more subdued and there were no shouts of "Happy Christmas".

The Queen, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the Royal Family listened as prayers were said for the Princess. Canon

George Hall, rector of the Sandringham group of parishes, said: "We thank God for those whom we love but see no more, Diana Princess of Wales, and all loved ones who have departed this life." Later he mentioned "all those who are experiencing sadness this Christmas".

After the service the Queen joined the Queen Mother who was chatting with the crowd and picked up her mother's walking stick when she dropped it.

In her Christmas broadcast, the highs and lows of joy and sadness were brought together by the Queen when she contrasted her sorrow at the death of Princess Diana with her pleasure at her own golden wedding celebrations.

In the ten-minute recorded address the Queen acknowledged the nation's grief at the death of her former daughter-in-law, although she stopped short of delivering any personal tribute of her own.

But the traditional programme, made for the first

time by ITN and in a more flexible and documentary format than usual, included film of the Princess's funeral, and of the mountains of floral tributes whose sheer size astonished the world.

The Queen used the twin themes of Westminster Abbey and the poet William Blake to interweave the pains and pleasures of another turbulent year for the monarchy. The Abbey, she said, had provided the setting for two events this year, "one of them almost unbearably sad and one, for Prince Philip and me, tremendously happy".

Joy and sadness were part of all our lives, the Queen said, reaching for a volume of Blake to quote: "Joy and woe are woven fine, a clothing for the soul divine".

On the day before Diana's funeral in September, the Queen returned from Balmoral and went straight on television with a live tribute to the life and work of the Princess, which was widely regarded as a highly successful, if belated,

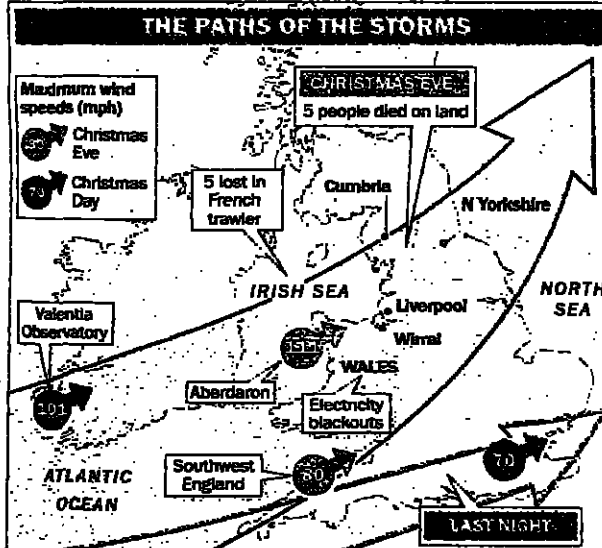
stroke of public relations. Consideration was given to another live appearance yesterday, but it was decided that a recorded programme would be more suitable for distribution to other Commonwealth countries with widely differing time zones.

Speaking between film clips of herself, the Prince of Wales, Prince William and Prince Harry inspecting the floral tributes to Diana at Buckingham and Kensington Palaces, the Queen said: "We all felt the shock and sorrow of Diana's death. Thousands upon thousands of you expressed your

grief most poignantly in the wonderful flowers and messages left in tribute to her. That was a great comfort to all those close to her."

Duty to Diana done, the Queen moved swiftly to the rest of her royal year, dwelling at length on the golden wedding and reviewing her year's work and travel. She said she and Prince Philip had been delighted to visit Pakistan and India: there was no hint that the mission, through no fault of her own, disintegrated into a diplomatic shambles.

Queen's broadcast, page 2



TV & RADIO	38, 39
WEATHER	20
CROSSWORDS	20, 40
LETTERS	17
OBITUARIES	19
MATTHEW PARRIS	16
ARTS	31-33
CHESS & BRIDGE	28
COURT & SOCIAL	18
BUSINESS	37, 38, 40
EDUCATION	34
LAW REPORT	30

Kaunda arrested
Kenneth Kaunda, the 73-year-old former President of Zambia, was arrested at his home in Lusaka early yesterday and imprisoned under the country's state of emergency laws. Page 11

Buying The Times overseas
Australia \$10.00, Belgium 8 Ffr 100, Canada \$15.00, Cdn \$15.00, Cyprus £1.20, Denmark Dkr 18.00, Finland Fmk 30.50, France F 16.00, Germany DM 4.50, Gibraltar 90p, Greece Dr 650, Netherlands Fl 5.50, Italy L 4,500, Luxembourg Lfr 80, Madeira Esc 250, Malta 45c, Morocco Dir 30.00, Norway Kr 25.00, Portugal Esc 350, Spain Ptas 325, Sweden Skr 25.00, Switzerland Sfr 5.00, Tunisia Din 3,200, USA \$3.50.



Britain to help bail out Korea

By JASON NISSE

BRITAIN is to contribute \$400 million (£240 million) to bail out South Korea. It was agreed on Christmas Eve in the face of the imminent collapse of the Asian economy.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, met with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to agree the funding, which is part of a \$10 billion "swift aid" package agreed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The aid follows a \$3 billion emergency loan by the World Bank, on Tuesday.

South Korea needed the money because Kim Dae-jung, president-elect, said he feared the country would not be able to pay \$15 billion of debts due soon to Western commercial banks. In exchange Mr Kim agreed to fundamental reforms of the economy which will allow Western firms to compete on an equal footing.

America is the largest contributor, paying \$1.7 billion. Richard Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, said he was confident the move would stabilise the South Korean economy and that the money would be repaid.

Korean rescue, page 40
Leading article, page 17

Blair supports minister over son in drugs case

By NICHOLAS WATT AND RICHARD FORD

TONY BLAIR has thrown his full authority behind the senior cabinet minister whose son was arrested by police over allegations of supplying cannabis.

As the minister spent Christmas at home with his teenage son, Mr Blair's spokesman said: "Not for one second does the question of the Prime Minister having anything less than total confidence in the minister arise. The question of the minister resigning does not even arise."

The Prime Minister and his senior Cabinet colleague spoke by telephone on Monday — the day that the teenager made a statement to police. The minister accompanied his son, 17, to a police station after he was contacted by *The Mirror* with evidence that the teenager had allegedly been supplying drugs. A journalist befriended the teenager and, the paper reported, bought cannabis from him.

Dame Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, was told on Tuesday of the arrest and the papers are expected to be sent to the Crown Prosecution Service early next month.

The Prime Minister's support for the minister, who

cannot be named to protect the identity of his son, underlines Mr Blair's determination to draw a line under an episode which has gravely embarrassed the Government.

It has made the drive against juvenile crime a key plank of its law and order policy and it has maintained a hard line against drugs. The Crime and Disorder Bill, now going through Parliament, followed a White Paper entitled *No More Excuses*.

It contains a new drug treatment and testing order for offenders aged 16 and over and measures aimed at making parents more responsible for providing their children with proper care and control.

Despite the resolute response from Downing Street, the Prime Minister will face pressure to move the minister to another Cabinet post in his first ministerial reshuffle.

Paul Flynn, Labour MP for Newport West and an advocate of the decriminalisation of cannabis for medicinal use, said: "If the boy gets away with it without a jail sentence it could be said that the fact that his father is a Government minister could have been a factor — even if it was not."

The allegations may also re-

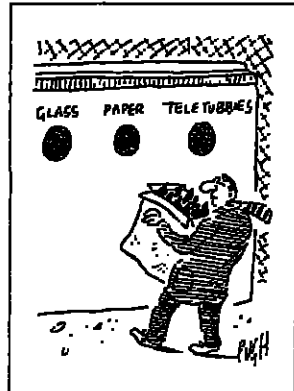
ignite the debate within the Labour Party over the decriminalisation of soft drugs. Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, infuriated the Labour leadership in 1995 when she said that legalisation could be examined as a way of tackling drug abuse.

Next month the Home Office is to publish new research showing that as many as one in 20 people believes he or she has been the victim of drug-related crime in the past two years.

Mr Flynn said he hoped the episode would lead to a change in policy. "This proves that drug-pushers are not the low-life the Government pretends they are. This boy was from a respectable middle-class home. It is a hard lesson for the Government to take."

Conservatives made clear that for the moment they do not want to make political capital out of the minister's embarrassment. Sir Brian Mawhinney, the Shadow Home Secretary, said: "Using drugs is dangerous and the Government is finding out that this remains true whatever the home background."

'Pros and cons', page 4



£3 billion of bargains

RECORD takings in the shops on Christmas Eve point to another bonanza as sales get into full swing today, retail analysts believe.

Do-it-yourself centres, discount furniture stores and white goods suppliers will be open today with millions of pounds worth of unsold stock offered at reduced prices.

Analysts believe that retailers may have as much as £3 billion worth of stock to dispose of.

The clothing sector has been particularly hard hit by the unseasonal mildness. Big reductions are predicted.

Barclays dismissed talk of a high street spending slump as it said spending on its Barclaycard jumped by 7 per cent in the last weekend before Christmas. Page 9

NO HO HO?

The Samaritans
0345 90 90 90

Queen speaks of sadness over the death of Princess

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Queen showed her determination to modernise and soften the Royal Family's image yesterday in a new-look Christmas broadcast.

The documentary-style programme, at 9 minutes 55 seconds the longest ever, was more relaxed than previous festive messages which have traditionally featured the Queen addressing the camera in a formal manner.

This year, highlights from the year were woven into the package with a voice-over commentary from the Queen, who spoke of the "almost unbearable" sadness at the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. More time was devoted to the tragedy — 2 minutes 15 seconds — than any other subject and extensive footage of the funeral and of the floral tributes outside Kensington Palace was included in the broadcast.

This year the programme was produced by ITN for the first time, thus ending the BBC's 64-year monopoly. It was broadcast in full to every Commonwealth country, also to its biggest potential audience as it made its debut live on the Internet.

The full text of the broadcast was: "At the Christian heart of this United Kingdom stands Westminster Abbey, and it was right that it provided the setting for two events this year, one of them almost unbearably sad, and one, for Prince Philip and me, tremendously happy.

Joy and sadness are part of

all our lives. Indeed, the poet William Blake tells us that: 'Joy and woe are woven fine, A clothing for the soul divine, Under every grief and pine runs a joy with silken twine'. This interweaving of joy and woe has been very much brought home to me and my family during the last months. We all felt the shock and sorrow of Diana's death.

Thousands upon thousands of you expressed your grief most poignantly in the wonderful flowers and messages left in tribute to her. That was

Being united is the glue that bonds together a family, a country, a commonwealth

a great comfort to all those close to her.

But Prince Philip and I also knew the joy of our Golden Wedding. We were glad to be able to share this joy at Buckingham Palace with many others couples, who are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year.

Then, on our anniversary day, came a very different service at Westminster Abbey, this time 'the silken twine', a service of thanksgiving for our 50 happy years together. And,

after that service, a chance to meet and chat to so many people.

I will never forget that day, nor a day five years ago when Windsor Castle suffered a terrible fire. More than a hundred rooms were badly damaged. This is how St George's Hall looked then [pictures of wreckage]. And this is how it looks now — wonderful [pictures of the restoration].

So the disaster of 1992 actually brought opportunities for all sorts of people to display their range of craftsmanship and skills, their love of history, and their faith in the future. Last month the restoration of the castle was completed and everyone involved gathered together to celebrate.

The castle is shortly to be open again for all to see, a mixture of the original with later additions and alterations, a vigorous blend of the old and the new.

And so it has been in the Commonwealth. Prince Philip and I were touched by the way the Canadian people welcomed us again to Canada. We were delighted to be invited to visit Pakistan and India on the 50th anniversary of their Independence, and to celebrate their achievements since 1947.

The Prince of Wales represented Britain when the people of Hong Kong marked their return to China in spectacular fashion [pictures of fireworks display]. Many of you might have felt

a twinge of sadness as we in Britain bade them farewell. The pictures speak for themselves, but we should be proud of the success of our partnership in Hong Kong and in how peacefully the old Empire has been laid to rest. Out of the old Empire sprang the Commonwealth family of nations that we know today, and that, too, has grown and changed.

In October, 51 representatives of Commonwealth governments met in Edinburgh, very much in the spirit of a family gathering. We all enjoyed meeting old friends and making new ones, but there was also important business to be

done. Here, with the Prime Minister of Grenada, we are discussing the drugs problem [pictures of discussion].

The world saw that the Commonwealth can make a major contribution to international relations and prosperity. The meeting also showed that unity and diversity can go hand in hand.

Recent developments at home, which have allowed Scotland and Wales greater say in the way they are governed, should be seen in that light and as proof that the Kingdom can still enjoy all the benefits of remaining united. Being united — that is, feeling

a unity of purpose — is the glue that bonds together the members of a family, a country, a commonwealth. Without it, the parts are only fragments of a whole, with it we can be much more than the sum of those fragments.

For most of us this is a happy family day. But I am well aware that there are many of you who are alone, or bereaved, or suffering. My heart goes out to you, and I pray that we, the more fortunate ones, can unite to lend a helping hand wherever it is needed, and not 'pass by on the other side'.

Saint Paul spoke of the first

Christmas as the kindness of God dawning upon the world. The world needs that kindness now more than ever — the kindness and consideration for others that disarms malice and which allows us to get on with one another with respect and affection.

Christmas reaffirms that God is with us today. But, as I have discovered afresh for myself this year, he is always present in the kindness shown by our neighbours and in the love of our friends and family. God bless you all and Happy Christmas.

Leading article, page 17



The Queen making her Christmas television broadcast, which was expected to attract its largest audience

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman on neglect charge

A Doncaster woman has appeared in court accused of neglecting three children days after her 17-year-old son died of suspected malnutrition. The boy, who weighed four stone, was found in his bedroom earlier this month.

The emaciated teenager was taken to hospital by paramedics but died soon afterwards. Police later arrested a 44-year-old divorcee. She was questioned about the boy's death and charged with neglecting three other children.

The woman appeared in court in Doncaster on Wednesday and was remanded in custody until the new year. An inquest on the dead schoolboy, who had been studying for his A levels, was halted by the coroner.

76-year marriage

A couple who have been married for 76 years are claiming Britain's longest union. John and Madge Brimers, of Darrington, West Yorkshire, both 95, married on Christmas Eve 1921. Mr Brimers, a mining engineer, worked abroad for 32 years but they made frequent trips to see each other. Their daughter Betty, 75, lives with them.

Car girls named

Two 17-year-old girls who died when their car went out of control and collided with an oncoming vehicle were named as Helen Jordan, who was driving, and Kathryn Mock, both of Wickford, Essex. The accident happened on the A130 near Retendon on Tuesday night. A middle-aged couple in the other car received minor injuries.

One-way ticket

Badgers were given a one-way trapdoor to leave a honeycomb of sets, during repairs on a steam-train embankment which they had undermined at Havenstreet, Isle of Wight. The protected animals moved to a bank in a cutting further down the line. Experts from the Ministry of Agriculture served as advisers on the operation.

Fowl good turn

Two policemen came to the rescue of two disabled people in Brentwood, Essex, who were unable to remove their cooked turkey from the oven after a friend had earlier helped to put it in. Sheila Kingston said: "We've had a sample now it's out of the oven and it seems the policemen came at just the right time — it's done to perfection."

Instead of Christmas, a two-minute call

By STEPHEN FARRELL

TWO thousand miles from the Christmas dinner tables they expected to be gracing, the crew of HMS *Invisible* yesterday shrugged off their disappointment and celebrated somewhere off Cyprus.

The aircraft carrier was due home at Portsmouth for the holiday but was diverted from the West Indies to the eastern Mediterranean during the crisis over Iraq's ban on UN weapons inspectors. It will remain deployed until further notice.

The 1,200 sailors and 100 RAF crew aboard were given free two-minute calls home. Most will receive no presents as they were expecting to receive them in person. Among the disappointed relatives, Claire Clarke, 31, who is seven months pregnant, said

that her two children were missing their father, a leading steward on board. Mrs Clarke, of Hilsa, Portsmouth, said: "We are so disappointed. We were really looking forward to being together. It really gets to you. You think: 'There goes the Navy again, disrupting our lives.' But no matter how much you dislike it, it's their job."

Invisible is providing cover for HMS *Covestry*, the Armilla Patrol vessel in the Gulf, whose sailors were among dozens of Service personnel around the world to receive calls from George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, yesterday thanking them for performing their duties. He contacted peacekeeping soldiers in Bosnia, Turkey and Saudi Arabia patrolling no-fly zones over Iraq.

RAF families on one of the world's

remotest airbases, Goose Bay in northern Canada, received a Hercules transporter load of Christmas supplies from the supermarket chain Sainsbury's, flown in from RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire.

British officials in Cyprus dismissed suggestions that Britain failed to intervene to secure the release of a Briton on a ship seized by its mainly Syrian crew. James Wilkinson was escorted off the 16,500-ton timber carrier *Blue Breeze* in high seas off Cyprus by police at midnight on Tuesday. Its crew sailed the Panamanian-flagged ship to Latakia, Syria.

Norma Reid, duty officer at the British High Commission in Nicosia, said: "Mr Wilkinson had acknowledged it was thanks to the action we took with the Panamanians that he was a free man." A senior official of the

Cyprus merchant shipping department had said earlier that Britain did not intervene to get Mr Wilkinson off the ship earlier because it felt that it had no jurisdiction.

Mr Wilkinson, acting on behalf of a European bank that held the mortgage on the vessel, embarked on the Syrian-owned ship at Lagos, Nigeria, with instructions to sail the ship to Gibraltar. The 23-member crew failed to heed his orders and switched course towards Latakia. Authorities were informed of the situation when Mr Wilkinson sent a coded message to his superiors saying that he felt threatened.

Ms Reid said the Foreign Office contacted the Panamanian authorities and obtained permission that enabled the Cypriot authorities to get Mr Wilkinson off the ship.

Young want peace, says Belfast pupil

A BELFAST schoolgirl yesterday expressed the hopes of Northern Ireland's young people for peace, in Channel 4's *Alternative Christmas Message* (Carol Midgley writes). In a five-minute broadcast featuring her own poetry, Margaret Gibney, who met the Prime Minister in the summer, told of how today's teenagers were unencumbered by past grievances and hatreds.

Margaret, 13, who is from the Shankill area, had impressed Channel 4's

chief executive, Michael Jackson, with her letter-writing campaign to 150 world leaders calling for an end to war. She had been invited to Downing Street by Tony Blair where she urged him not to abandon the search for a solution to the Province's problems.

Margaret commissioned her classmates to appear in the film, which was recorded recently. Earlier this week she appeared on television when the Duchess of Kent presented her with a Champion Children award.

Pride precedes MP's fall from favour with voters

By POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

NEW Labour women MPs who accuse the Tories of sexism and rudeness can take comfort from a television documentary: things could have been worse.

Campaign Confessions to be shown this weekend reveals a degree of arrogance from one defeated Tory that makes many of his vicious colleagues look like models of humility.

Tony Marlow, the Eurosceptic who lost Northampton North for the Tories on May 1, is one of ten election candidates who feature in the fly-on-the-wall documentary about the run-up to polling day.

As he chases votes in the marginal seat, Mr Marlow is heard asking one elector "to

help me stop the Europeans from taking over". The man says he will not support the Tories. Mr Marlow tells aides: "He's an ugly-looking sod, he's voting Labour."

After a bruising encounter with a woman who argues eloquently against the Tories' education policies, Mr Marlow berates his team: "You let me in for a school teacher. Don't you let me in for a school teacher again. They're half intelligent, that's the problem. People ought to be one thing or the other."

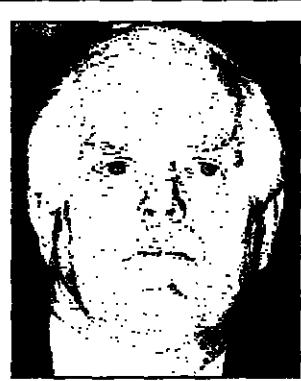
As polling day dawns, Mr Marlow — who describes Tony Blair as "that great grinning moron" — is asked whether he follows any rituals to bring him luck. "I might

crucify the odd feminist or something," he says.

Unlike Mr Marlow, who continues to insist that the opinion polls are wrong until the 10,000 Labour majority over him is declared, other Tories are more canny.

Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, who retained the seat of Wealden in Sussex, is aware that sleaze is hurting the Conservative campaign. "One would almost wish that there had been one great big scandal involving one person — the sort of thing we hear about in French politics — but here it's been a series of sexual scandals."

The programme also follows Kim Howells, now a Minister at the Department



Marlow: convinced the opinion polls were wrong

for Education and Employment, as he campaigns in the safe seat of Pontypriid. Dr Howells admits to doubts about the party's strategy of putting Tony Blair so firmly at the heart of its campaign. "But I always mistrust the big ideas and the bright young things that we employ to come up with them."

Campaign Confessions, 4.25pm BBC2, Saturday and Sunday.

Plea over World Cup goal

Bid to stage tournament may rest on fans' record, reports Phil Webster

THE Government will step up its efforts today to help England to win the battle to stage the 2006 World Cup, with a warning to football fans to stay away from the finals in France next summer unless they have tickets.

Ministers hope that England may be edging ahead of Germany as the leading European candidate for 2006, and Tony Blair has urged colleagues to do all they can to assist the bid. The behaviour of England supporters next year could have a crucial bearing on the decision by the 24-man executive of Fifa, the sport's governing body.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, said yesterday that if England supporters behaved well in France, it would do much to strengthen the bid:

"They can play their part not just in helping England to do well in 1998, but in the campaign to bring the World Cup here eight years later."

Today the Home Office will back up the campaign by warning fans not to buy tickets in advance to forget any idea of travelling to France in the hope of securing them there. Most of the tickets will be sold beforehand, and ministers believe the prospect of supporters roaming around France in the hope of picking them up at on the black market would be a recipe for trouble. Although there will always be a minority of hardcore hooligans bent on trouble — from other countries just as much as from England — the authorities will find it

easier to deal with them if other true fans are not wandering around trying to find tickets for matches.

Football Association officials say that the high-level political backing for the bid is causing massive interest in other countries and is proving an important boost. Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, and Sir Bobby Charlton, a hero of England's 1966 winning team, recently returned from a visit to the United States, Trinidad and Costa Rica to see three of the executive members.

One of the bid organisers said: "There is a lot of interest around the world in the new Blair Government and people seem genuinely impressed that there has put his weight behind this bid. Another big

factor is the huge interest in English football at present with so many foreign stars playing in the Premiership.

"Finally, the success we had in staging Euro '96, and the fact that we have so many fine stadiums, brought up to date after the implementation of the Taylor report on Hillsborough, are proving to be big pluses for us." South Africa may be England's main rival from outside Europe.

Mr Banks said yesterday that England was ready to stage another World Cup: "When the decision on 2006 is made, we want it to be on merit. We don't want people saying that we lost our chance because some of our supporters let us down in France. If there is serious trouble, it will jeopardise our chances."

The John Lewis Clearance.

It's like a sale, only better.

FIRST DAY MONDAY AT PETER JONES - Sloane Square, JOHN LEWIS, OXFORD STREET, GRYN CROSS, ABERDEEN, GHEADLE, EDINBURGH, HIGH WYCOMBE FIRST DAY TUESDAY AT JOHN LEWIS, BRISTOL, KINGSTON, MILTON KEYNES, PETERBOROUGH, WELWYN, BAINBRIDGE - Newcastle, BONDS - Norwich, CALEYS - Windsor, COLE BROTHERS - Sheffield, HEELAS - Reading, JESSOP & SON - Nottingham, KNIGHT & LEE - Southsea, GEORGE HENRY LEE - Liverpool, ROBERT SAYLE - Cambridge, TREWINS - Watford, TYRRELL & GREEN - Southampton

At John Lewis Department Stores, even during a clearance, it's business as usual. For instance our pricing policy, summed up by 'Never Knowingly Undersold',

means that if we find a local retailer offering the same goods at a lower price, we will reduce ours accordingly, even if their goods are in a sale. We still deliver

free across a wide area. And whatever you buy, you can return it if you are not completely satisfied. The John Lewis Clearance. It's better than a sale.

JOHN LEWIS
Department Stores

حكايا من الماضي

Anonymous tip-off sparked newspaper inquiry that ended with 17-year-old accused of selling cannabis

Minister's son 'spoke of pros and cons of drug'

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE TRAP

AN ANONYMOUS telephone call to the newsroom of *The Mirror* launched the inquiry that led to the teenage son of a senior Cabinet minister being arrested for allegedly supplying cannabis.

It was an investigation that involved reporters claiming they were "trainee estate agents", conversations in a pub about raves, and rumours of cocaine-taking by celebrities. It ended with a senior member of Tony Blair's Government accompanying his son to a police station.

The tip-off was made in a telephone call to Dawn Alford, a reporter on *The Mirror*, shortly before Christmas. The caller made certain allegations about the minister's 17-year-old son. Miss Alford was told: "Watch this pub, not only will you be amazed at what he's doing but you will also be very surprised at who his parents are."

Miss Alford and a colleague went to the crowded London pub on a Saturday night and, according to *The Mirror*, five minutes after they arrived the minister's son, dressed in a sweat shirt, jeans and T-shirt, walked in. Within minutes, Miss Alford and her colleague were talking to him and four of his friends, who took it in turn to buy rounds of lager, about festivals and rock con-

certs. About 30 minutes later, the subject of drugs was said to have been raised as the Cabinet minister's son talked about raving, the legal drug poppers, and rumours of cocaine-taking by celebrities.

According to *The Mirror*, the conversation later moved to cannabis as the youth talked about the pros and cons of hash (resin) or grass (leaves). Miss Alford said that the minister's son then offered to sell her cannabis in a resin form. He allegedly said a friend had cannabis to sell "at 10s" and went on to explain that the expression meant the batch cost £10 and was likely to be enough to make ten joints. He is alleged to have winked at her and added:

"Leave it to me, I'll see what I can do."

Ten minutes later the youth allegedly tapped her on the shoulder and told her to accompany him outside the pub. There, opposite a magistrates' court, the teenager allegedly handed over a small, clear plastic bag and said it was "good strong hash" before taking the £10 note. He allegedly gave Miss Alford his telephone number and they arranged to meet again.

On the next morning, the newspaper arranged for the drug to be sent to a laboratory in London, where it was received on December 15. The tests showed that the sample was cannabis resin weighing 1.92 grams. On December 17,

the newspaper received confirmation in the form of a written certificate of analysis.

The Mirror says it was later told that the minister's son planned to attend a party on December 20 at a flat in London where harder drugs were likely to be available. It was then that the paper decided to contact the minister to inform him of the alleged activities of his son. On the afternoon of December 20 Piers Morgan, the Editor, called the minister and outlined the details of the investigation.

The minister promised to investigate the allegations himself. After talking to his son, he contacted Downing Street to inform the Prime Minister's office of the situation and, at 6pm on Monday, accompanied the youth to a police station in London.

They were taken into a small room where the teenager made a statement to police. The minister asked for no special privileges and insisted that the law should take its normal course.

Police cautioned the teenager and warned him that anything he said might be used in evidence. He was asked to sign the statement confirming it was an accurate account of what he had just told them. He was released on bail and told he would have to report back to the police station at a later date.

THE DRUG

CANNABIS is by far the most popular illegal drug in Britain and has been tried by a third of people aged 16 to 29. Users are from all social groups. A Home Office survey of 11,000 households found that 35 per cent of people aged 16-19 had used cannabis, 27 per cent in the past year and 16 per cent in the previous month. In the 20-24 age group, 42 per cent of men and women had used cannabis. 24 per cent in the past year and 16 per cent in the previous month. In the 25-29 group, the figures were 32 per cent, 15 per cent and 8 per cent. Cannabis comes in several forms: marijuana, comprising the heads of female plants; cannabis resin, a compressed brown or black powder that is heated or crumbled for use; and, more rarely, cannabis oil. All forms can be smoked, pure or mixed with tobacco, and eaten, usually in cakes. The drug gives a feeling of relaxed wellbeing lasting about two hours.



This cannabis smoking scene on American TV was condemned by drug officials

Why the teenager's identity is kept secret

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

STRICT laws bar the media from identifying under-18s in court proceedings. The restrictions include information such as a parent's exact position.

Only in exceptional circumstances can courts name juveniles, although Conservative and Labour Governments have moved to give greater discretion to judges and magistrates to identify youngsters as part of "naming and shaming".

The protective curbs were first introduced in the Children and Young Persons Act of

THE LAW

1933, which stated that "no newspaper report of any proceedings in a youth court shall reveal the name, address, or school or include any particulars calculated to lead to the identification of any child or young person concerned in these proceedings".

Even though the youth has yet to appear in court, the restrictions are in operation because he has been arrested. Under the 1981 Contempt of Court Act, the legal proceedings are "active".

Although Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, was told about the case on Tuesday, it is not thought that she will deal personally with the police file when it is passed to the CPS early next month. Officials in her department will decide whether the teenager should be charged, taking into account factors such as whether courts were likely to impose only a nominal fine, and whether the incident was an isolated event arising from a misjudgment.

Most 17 year olds caught with a small amount of cannabis receive only a police caution. Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "In London, virtually all persons found in possession of a small amount of cannabis would be cautioned. If the person was supplying small amounts, the most likely outcome of a court hearing would be a fine, a conditional discharge or possibly a small period of community service such as helping out at an old people's home."

If the courts were to decide on a tougher penalty, they could order reports on the youth, his family background and school record before deciding on what punishment to impose.

MPs vulnerable to family scandal

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE CHILDREN

POLITICIANS of every hue, from Prime Ministers to backbenchers, have long been embarrassed by wayward children. The pressures of a political career make it difficult to exercise authority over their offspring.

Two of Winston Churchill's children suffered from alcohol abuse. In 1957, two years after his father had stood down as Prime Minister, Sarah Churchill was arrested in Los Angeles on a charge of drunkenness and fined \$50.

Lord Shore of Stepney, the former Labour Cabinet minister, and his wife, Elizabeth, a senior civil servant, were devastated in 1977 when their son, Piers, 20, was found dead in a London squat after a drinking binge. He was awaiting sentence on a drugs charge.

In 1986, Olivia Channon, the 22-year-old daughter of Paul Channon, then Trade and Industry Secretary, died from a combination of heroin

and alcohol. In the 1980s, Mary Parkinson, the eldest daughter of Lord Parkinson, the Conservative Party chairman, nearly died of drug overdoses.

Lord Steel of Aikwood, the former leader of the Liberal Democrats, was embarrassed in 1995 when his son, Graeme, was jailed for nine months for growing cannabis worth £30,000. Graeme advocates decriminalisation of cannabis, as do many Liberal Democrats.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, once described politics and family life as "potentially a lethal combination". In 1990, Mr Straw wrote in *The Times*: "Pressures today debilitate and undermine family life... There is the simple fact of broken evenings and late nights. For male MPs with young families, it can be bad enough. For women MPs, much worse."

When going to police becomes only choice

IT IS every parent's nightmare: the discovery that despite all the guidance from government, school and home, their child has become involved with drugs (Richard Ford writes).

Few would go as far as the Cabinet minister and handed their child in to the police. But they do not face the extra pressures of being a public figure. The minister had no option but to go to the police. To have done nothing would

THE DILEMMA

have risked the media publishing the information so as to cause maximum embarrassment.

Most parents who were asked about the issue last night said that they would not have handed their children over to the police if a small amount of cannabis was involved. One father said that first there would be an "almighty family row".

He would then talk to his child about what had been going on and contact the child's friends and their parents to raise the matter. He would probably go to the landlord of the public house where dealing was taking place.

The parent said: "I would then have a serious talk with the youngster, explaining the risks and warning him of the long-term consequences if the behaviour continued. I would warn him that any repetition would mean that I would have to go to the police and tell them what was going on. It would not be easy but it would have to be done."



Help is desperately needed for orphaned elephants like Aitong.

Aitong was rescued when she was only a few weeks old. She had been trampled by her own herd as they fled in panic from the sound of poacher's guns.

Your help will immediately provide the milk, food, medical attention and loving care that Aitong and her friends need, and also give aid to elephant conservation worldwide.

For just £24.95 you will not only help care for Aitong, but also receive a gift pack containing:

- A colour photograph of Aitong
- A personalised fostering certificate
- A VHS video of all the orphans
- A fostering window sticker
- An update after six months

The gift pack is also available individually (please add £5.00 for each item)

Care for the WSM International, 1 Addicks Road, Roper, West Sussex, BN12 4QL. Tel (01293) 571596

Registered Charity 26808

Yes! I would like to foster the orphan, Aitong.

Person making payment: Name _____ Address _____ Postcode _____ Foster parent: Name _____ Address _____ Postcode _____

Please send initial pack to: The foster parent ☐ The person making payment ☐

I enclose a cheque/postal order (Payable to Care for the WSM International) ☐

or debit my credit card (Details below) ☐ for the following amount: £ _____

Name/Address/Telephone (No. _____) E-mail _____

To receive the initial gift pack, please add £2.00 (Europe) £3.00 (elsewhere) ☐

To receive the full information about Care for the WSM International please tick here ☐

DEBENHAMS

The

SALE

Starts Tomorrow*
8am

Shop early for
Half Price bargains
throughout the store

All stores also open Sunday 28 December

DEBENHAMS

Stock subject to availability in all Debenhams stores including Browns of Chester.

*Sale starts today at 9am in Scotland.

<http://www.debenhams.co.uk>

Baby Molly gives mother an unexpected Christmas gift

By Philip Delves Broughton

JULIE ANGLIN thought she was suffering from appendicitis after a day spent moving furniture. When the doctor arrived he told her: "We'd better get you into hospital. You're in labour and about to have a baby."

Miss Anglin had not even realised she was pregnant, let alone that her baby had reached full term.

Yesterday, she and her partner, David Garratt, 43, from Southwell in Nottinghamshire, shared their first Christmas with six-day-old Molly, who arrived two hours after she was taken into hospital and weighed in at 5lb 6oz.

"I had absolutely no idea I was even pregnant," Miss Anglin, 35, said. "When the doctor told me I just said, 'Oh my God, I don't believe it. I have heard about these things happening but I never thought it could be true, then it happened to me.'"

"Molly is the best Christmas present anyone could have. She is an unbelievably quiet baby, and she obviously managed to keep the news to herself."

Miss Anglin maintains that there was no reason for her to suspect she was pregnant. She had put on a few pounds, but she put that down to extra eating, while her menstrual cycle had always been irregular. "Because I'd never been pregnant before I didn't really know what to look out for. Looking back I suppose there were little signs — I had cravings for

strange foods like liver, but that's me all over."

Surprise births are not uncommon, particularly among older women who imagine their childbearing days are behind them, women with irregular periods, and women who fail to sense, as some claim to be able to do, the exact moment of conception.

Miss Anglin has given up her part-time job to look after Molly and to catch up on baby business. Before the surprise birth, the couple had given no thought to nappies, nurseries or romper suits. They are now on a steep learning curve with the help of friends and family.

Mr Garratt, Miss Anglin's partner of the past three years and a driver for the local council, said: "We have got everything now but before the weekend we did not even have a pair of baby socks."

Molly's surprise entrance has also had helped Miss Anglin's family through a difficult period. She said: "It has been a traumatic time over the past few weeks as my grandfather died. The family were in grief but Molly has come as pleasant news for everyone."

Mr Garratt admits to a certain numbness when told of his imminent fatherhood. "I was in shock. We had never planned to have children but I am so proud. I'm the happiest man alive because I don't think I could have wished for a better present."



Julie Anglin with David Garratt and Molly, "the best Christmas present anyone could have"

Season of cheer for twins with the gift of life

By Russell Jenkins

THE parents of Britain's only surviving set of Siamese twins are celebrating a special Christmas.

Their daughters have thrived since an operation last summer freed them to live healthy, independent lives.

Aoife and Niamh McDonnell were joined at the chest and abdomen and shared a liver, when they were born on April 17 at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester. They were separated in a six-hour operation at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children on June 19.

It was an agonising decision to allow the surgeons, led by Professor Lewis Spitz, to go ahead with the separation. However, the sight of the two elfin-faced toddlers pushing babywalkers around the living room of their home in Longsight, Manchester, is proof, the parents say, that the decision was the right one.

Six months after the operation, the only signs of their extraordinary birth are scars on their stomachs. They are already fading. Their mother, Joan Varley, said: "They don't even need any drugs, and I really only take them back for check-ups so everyone can see them again. They are spoiled rotten."

"It has been an incredibly difficult, emotional time but

looking at them now, hearing them chuckle, I know that I would, if I had to, go through it all again. They are just the best."

Although the girls are fast developing their own personalities, they are rarely apart. They like to nuzzle each other and frequently stretch out to stroke the face of the other. Aoife is more demanding than her sister and is already trying to crawl. She is heavier, and has two teeth. Niamh, who is smaller, spent longer in intensive care.

Miss Varley and her partner, Paul McDonnell, were anxious to shield the family from the glare of publicity at the time of the operation. Now they are happy to let the world know that the girls are well, although there is a problem. The mother said: "I cannot go shopping in Stockport because I cannot go two yards without people stopping and saying how gorgeous they are, and the girls love the attention. People have been very kind."

The family was celebrating Christmas at home before a probable move to a bigger house in the new year. The long-term plan is to return to Ireland to be near Miss Varley's family of seven brothers and six sisters.

Yeast cells give clues to ageing in humans

SCIENTISTS in the US have discovered an ageing mechanism in yeast cells that may one day make it possible to slow the process of human ageing.

They have found that the yeast cells become clogged with tiny coils of the genetic material DNA which break off from the chromosomes and proliferate until the cell becomes overwhelmed and dies. These "mortal coils" — to borrow from Shakespeare — appear to be responsible for the process of cell death, at least in this kind of cell.

"It is remarkable that this mechanism of ageing in yeast cells is so simple at the molecular level," Professor Leonard Guarante and Dr David Sinclair of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology write in the *Journal Cell*. "It is conceivable that inhibitors of this ageing process can be found and if so, such strategies might eventually prove useful in forestalling ageing in yeast and, perhaps, in higher organisms."

The search for the elixir of youth is a recurrent theme of fiction, from the story of Faust to Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. The desire for immortality has led to countless theories of ageing, but until recently little was actually known about how deterioration in function is related to cellular and molecular changes. However, earlier

Scientists are beginning to understand how cells die, reports Nigel Hawkes

this year the MIT team identified a gene in Werner's Syndrome, a rare disease, whose carriers have symptoms resembling a speeded-up ageing process. They also showed that modifying that gene in yeast speeded ageing.

From other yeast studies they found a series of genes that appear to determine lifespan, and found that the products of these genes moved into the nucleolus — a structure in the nucleus of the cell — implying that perhaps the nucleolus was the "Achilles' heel" of cells as they get older. They found that the nucleolus eventually breaks up, preventing yeast cells from continuing to divide. The latest work identifies what it is that causes the nucleolus to grow larger and ultimately to fragment. This, the scientists say, is the accumulation of the DNA rings, which they call "extrachromosomal ribosomal DNA circles", or ERCs. They are created from lengths of DNA pinched off from the

chromosomes as the cell divides. They have found that the older the cell, the more ERCs it contains. Ultimately, they become so plentiful that they gum up the normal processes of cell division, and the cell dies.

The ERCs act as a kind of clock. Professor Guarante suggests: "Once an ERC is formed or inherited, the period of time until a lethal number of ERCs has accumulated may be the clock that determines the lifespan of the cell."

ERCs can apparently form as a result of two processes. One is damage to DNA, which occurs all the time, and is usually efficiently repaired. The suggestion is that the ERCs are part of the repair process but, paradoxically, ultimately accumulate and cause cell death. But ERCs can also be inherited, suggesting that some cells are designed to have a built-in clock that limits their lifespan.

The implications of the research are that it may one day be possible to inhibit ageing in cells that are analogous to the yeast cells used in the experiments. In mammals, these are the so-called stem cells, found in organs such as the skin, kidney, liver and blood. The scientists say: "Next it will be important to determine whether ERCs or other circular DNAs accumulate in stem cells of ageing mice or humans."

A Minor miracle makes late arrival

WHEN Richard Amner took his battered Morris Traveller to a workshop for restoration he was delighted when they told him he could collect it by Christmas. They were true to their word but failed to specify which Christmas.

Yesterday Mr Amner, 48, was able to drive his completed timber-framed Morris to visit relatives near his home in Rochford, Essex, almost five and a half years after work began.

Mr Amner bought the car, named Jessica after his daughter, for £450 and took it to the workshop owned by a friend at Hockley, Essex. "Jessica was just a baby when it all started and now she is 6 and at school," he said. "I've never really pressured my friend but I told him I wanted it for this Christmas. The work has cost £8,000 and I suppose my wife has been upset because I haven't lavished as much on her as a husband should."

But he admitted that there had been a series of problems. "The recession came along, there was a fire at the workshops and there were gaps in me giving the go-ahead for various jobs to be done."

Breathing Space.

(Don't take it for granted)



We don't. Help us keep Britain's breathing spaces open. Footpaths and coastline, high places, heaths and woodland. For walkers.

For over 60 years, THE RAMBLERS' lobbying and vigilance have been achieving wide-ranging rights of access to some of our most beautiful countryside. Go for a walk. Take a breather from our crowded world. Think about the future; invest in THE RAMBLERS.

Join us.

A modest subscription brings you — FREE — the essential Yearbook, full of outdoor information (over 300 pages, over 3000 places to stay, £4.99 in paperback), the quarterly magazine, Rrambling Today, membership of one of our 400 local groups. Many outdoor equipment shops offer discounts.

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms

Address

Postcode

Date of birth

Tick box for membership type required

Ordinary £17

Family/child £21

Under 18 (students/retired/disabled/unemployed)

Donation £

1 unclous £

We occasionally exchange names (for use once only) with other organisations which may interest you. Tick if you would prefer to be excluded.

Registered Charity No. 306099

Working for walkers

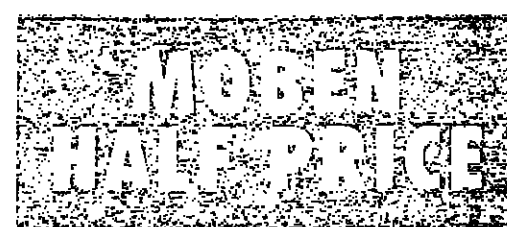
1-5 Wandsworth Road, London SW6 2XX. Tel: 0171 339 8500

TIM 26

CHOOSE FROM OVER 40 KITCHEN STYLES

YOUR MOBEN KITCHEN CAN INCLUDE ALL THIS:

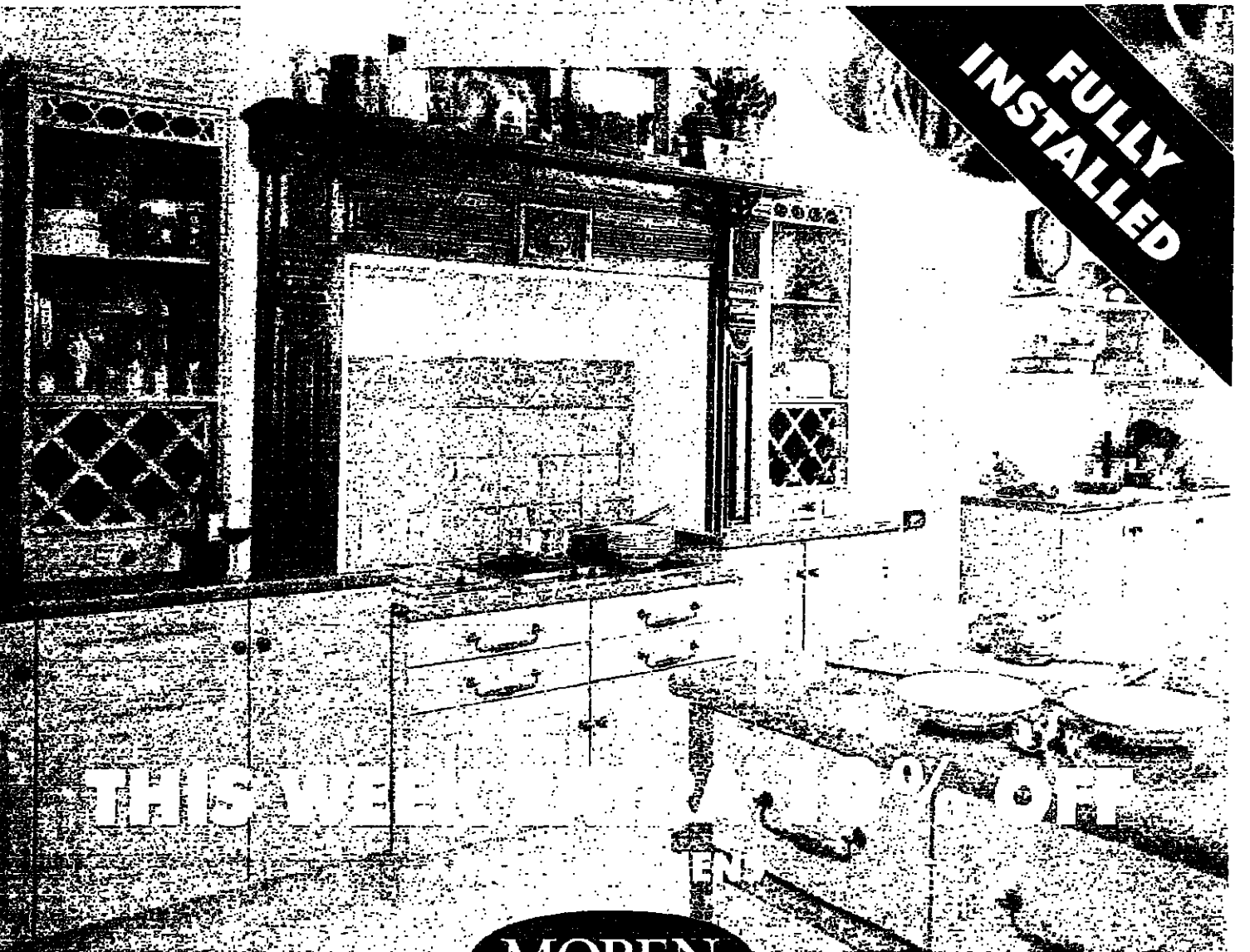
- INTEGRATED APPLIANCES
- RANGE OVEN
- FEATURE EXTRACTOR CANOPY
- BUTLER SINK & LUXURY TAPS
- SOLID WOOD WORKTOPS
- FORMICA 40MM THICK WORKTOPS
- CORNICE MOULDINGS
- LIGHT BAFFLES
- WINE & PLATE RACKS
- QUALITY HANDLES & KNOBS
- APPLIANCE FACIA DOORS
- MATCHING ISLAND UNIT & WORKTOP
- MATCHING BREAKFAST BAR
- WICKER BASKET DRAWERS
- TONGUE & GROOVE PANNELLING
- ALL FULLY GUARANTEED & INCLUSIVE OF VAT



NEFF • TECNIK
Examples of Sale Appliances
LESS THAN HALF PRICE AND INSTALLED FREE!

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Neff B1420 Circuotherm oven & grill available white or brown. | List price £435
NOW £217 |
| Neff T2113 Gas hob with push button control & pan supports. | List price £175
NOW £87 |
| Neff S5443 Fully integrated dishwasher 12 place settings.†† | List price £750
NOW £349 |
| Tecnik TKC231 Deluxe fan oven & grill available in green. | List price £439
NOW £210 |
| Tecnik TKR601 Built under integrated larder fridge 145 lit capacity.†† | List price £459
NOW £179 |

Offers only apply to kitchen purchases over £2500. Only one of each type of appliance per order.



MOBEN

VISIT THE MOBEN JANUARY SALE AT OVER 200 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

For a free brochure and to talk direct to your local showroom call this number now

OPEN EVERY DAY INCLUDING NEW YEAR'S DAY MON-FRI 10.00AM-5.30PM SAT 9.00AM-5.30PM SUN 10.00AM-4.00PM
*Except Scotland (Scotland Sunday 11.00am-5.00pm)

Children and appliance offers only apply to kitchen purchases over £2500. Only one of each type of appliance per order. Half price refers to price list dated 24.11.97. Fitting excludes customer's own appliances. ††See website on site supplies. ††Integrated doors available at extra cost. No other offers apply.

Bishops condemn Boxing Day hunt meets

By LIN JENKINS AND STEPHEN FARRELL

AS HUNT supporters gather for their biggest day of the year, an archbishop and six bishops have declared their support for a ban on the practice. In a letter to *The Times*, the Archbishop of Wales, the Most Rev Alwyn Rice Jones, and leading Church of England figures welcome the publication of a Christian Socialist Movement pamphlet against foxhunting.

Three hundred packs of hounds are expected to be in action today. Hunt protesters will also be out demonstrating in favour of the Private Member's Bill by the Labour backbencher Michael Foster to abolish hunting with hounds.

The archbishop writes: "We hope and pray that time will be found for legislation to ensure that this will be the last Boxing Day when the savage and terrifying death of an animal is treated as a sport."

The letter says that the treatment of "the rest of Creation is every bit as much a question of morality as unemployment or homelessness". Signatories include the Bishop of Dover, the Right Rev Richard Llewellyn; the Bishop of

Hulme, the Right Rev Colin Scott; the Bishop of Reading, the Right Rev Dominic Walker; the Bishop of Rochester, the Right Rev Michael Nazir-Ali; John Austin Baker, the retired Bishop of Salisbury; and the leading Methodist Lord Soper.

Police are preparing for confrontation between hunt followers and opponents. Fears of violence have grown after three supporters were injured and 42 saboteurs

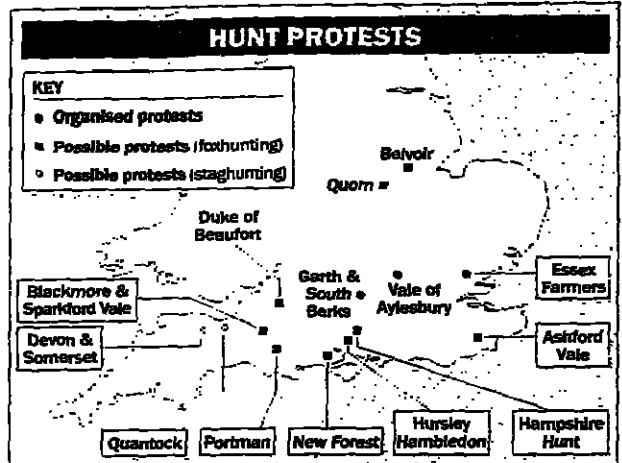
arrested at the Hursley Hambledon hunt on December 13.

Protesters wearing masks and armed with staves, iron bars and baseball bats also smashed headlights and windscreens of cars at a meet near Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire. The same group is thought to have carried out a similar attack at a meet of the Portman in Dorset two weeks earlier.

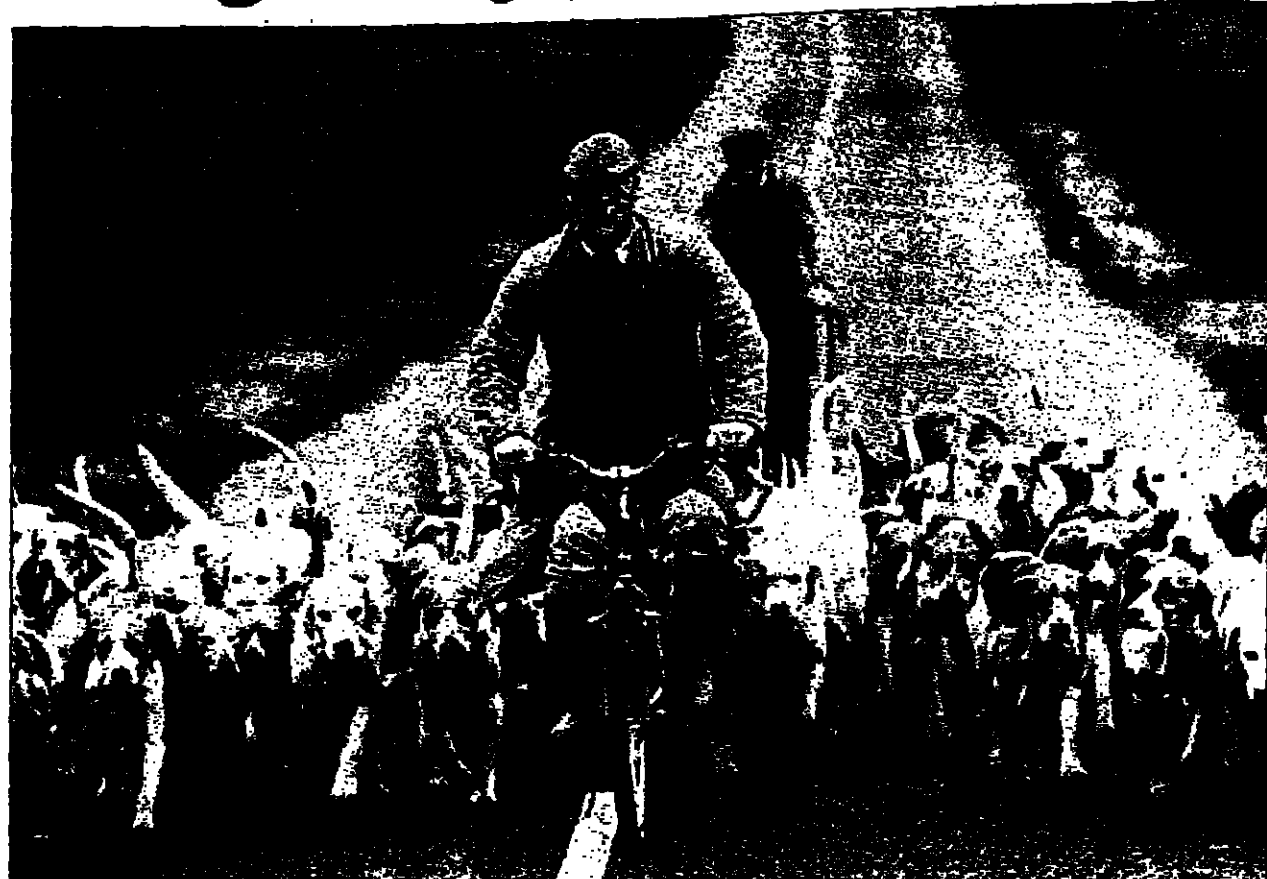
The Hunt Saboteurs Association said the attack was the work of a group calling itself the Hunt Retribution Squad. "The tactics used were not something we would condone. We run around in fields blowing hunting horns and use voice calls to disrupt the hunt."

The Duke of Beaufort's meet, with which the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles both ride, is expected to attract protests although the Prince will be at Sandringham. Hunting supporters are determined to use the day to highlight opposition to the Foster Bill. It is unlikely to become law in this parliamentary session because of lack of time, but government sources have hinted that it could be included in the Criminal Justice Bill next session.

Paul Latham, of the British Field Sports Society, said: "We will see many tens of thousands of people turning out to support the hunts. Most people will be there to see a traditional scene and support something relevant to the countryside."



Letters, page 17



The Ludlow Hunt co-operated with the makers of tonight's documentary, believing it would educate the public

HALF PRICE SALE NOW ON



BLOOMSBURY 40% OFF

WITH AN EXTRA 10% OFF SALE PRICES



When you buy from Magnet, you can be sure that you get a beautiful kitchen designed to meet your every need. You can also be sure that it's built to take everything life can throw at it. Right now in the Magnet January Sale, all cabinets in over 50 kitchen and bedroom ranges have been reduced, most by 50%, and there are some great offers on **DEFF** and **Whirlpool** appliances too.

Visit your local Magnet showroom today to take advantage of these fantastic sale offers.



Magnet

Designed for living BUILT FOR LIFE

for your nearest showroom and opening hours call 0800 192 192

Opening hours: Friday 26th most stores will be open 10.00am-5.00pm, Saturday 27th 9.00am-5.00pm, Sunday 28th most stores will be open 10.00am-4.00pm. Monday 29th 9.00am-4.00pm, Tuesday 30th 9.00am-5.00pm, Wednesday 31st 9.00am-4.00pm. Discounts are off prices charged between 24th November and 25th December. *Where you spend £1,000 or more on kitchen cabinets.

BBC shows film of fox being dug out and shot

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BLOODY scenes of a pursued fox being dug out and shot will be screened on television tonight after a hunt invited a documentary crew to film them.

The hunt was unrepentant yesterday about its decision, declaring that it would help its cause. The programme, to be shown on BBC2, includes footage of an ageing hound being shot. Viewers will be warned that certain scenes might cause distress.

The Ludlow Hunt, based in Shropshire, co-operated fully in the making of the film and gave the camera crew access to their activities. Bill Andrews, former head of the hunt, said that members had realised that the public might react strongly to certain scenes but that they had wanted to show hunting life as it was to dispel "myths".

"It will be very difficult for a lot of people to accept," he said. "But there is a gulf of difference between them and people in the countryside who deal with life and death day in, day out. I do think this accurately portrays what happens with hunting."

For the first time a documentary crew was allowed to follow the hunt throughout the 1996-97 season. Filming began before Labour was returned to power and Michael Foster, the newly elected MP for Worcester, introduced his Bill that would ban hunting

with hounds. During the Ludlow season, 63 foxes were killed, 18 of which were caught in the open with horse and hounds. The rest were chased into their burrows.

In the documentary, a fox is shown being dug out of its sanctuary by terrier-men who then shoot it through the head at the express wish of the farmer who owns the land. The fox's body is then torn apart by the hounds.

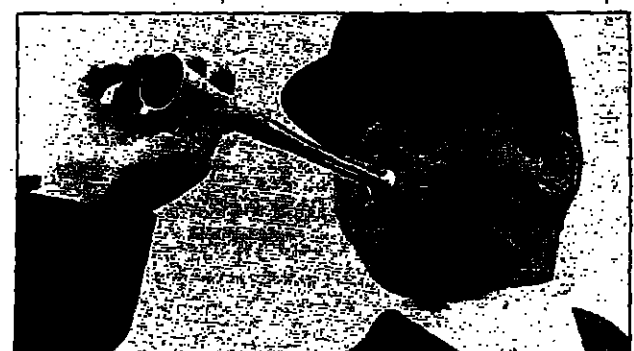
The hunt believes this will answer an urban misconception that foxes are thrown alive to the hounds. "That never happens," Mr Andrews said. "The fox is killed quickly and cleanly. What we are seeing in those scenes is fox control. It is the farmer's payback for letting us go across his land."

A hound which, the documentary says, could no longer keep up with the pack, is seen

being taken into a yard and held while it is shot from behind. The keeper says: "You couldn't have them as pets, they would wreck your house. They give you nine years of pleasure. Of course it is very distressing when you have to put a hound down, but people will see this is a dog which is in its home environment being put down very quickly and without pain."

Kevin Saunders, of the League Against Cruel Sports, said there was no need to kill hounds when they could no longer hunt. "If anybody needs persuading, this film will show how barbaric, callous and cold-blooded hunting really is."

The BBC said the film was "shocking and thought-provoking" at the time of a political battle on the subject. *Under the Sun: The Hunt*, BBC2, 9pm



The film shows the hunt in the 1996-97 season

Book early to guarantee the best price with SeaFrance, so you can relax until Summer.



When embarking on your holiday this Summer you can enjoy the French atmosphere of our restaurants and bars without losing sleep over the price. SeaFrance monitor the competitive fares on a regular basis ensuring the lowest price around. This is SeaFrance's price guarantee. You can alter your dates and times of sailing before travel, free of charge.

You can't afford to lie around though. Book by 31st March 1998 and travel from Dover to Calais for only £89* return, which includes a car and up to five passengers.

the difference c'est
SEAFRANCE
0990 711711

For bookings and information visit our website at <http://www.seafrance.com>

T1c13

هكنا من الامم

The new sound? It's just a blast from the past

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

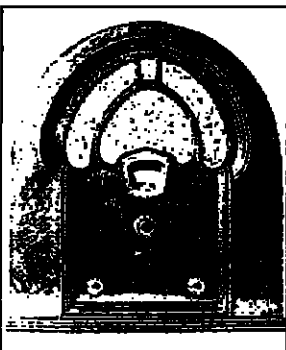
IT COULD be bad news for teenagers tinkering with their new Christmas sound systems. On the 50th anniversary of the invention of the transistor, which in turn created modern hi-fi, leading figures in a 1990s music craze say that antique valve amplifiers are better designed for playing their thumping music.

The music — known as drum n'bass — is said to be left flat by modern audio. Lemon D, a producer and disc jockey of drum n'bass, says: "The natural, warm sound valve amps give makes the beats sound alive, instead of being flat and digital."

Some older devotees of valve amplifiers still make the kind of suspicious remark about transistors that modern music fans have said with each change from vinyl and tape to compact and mini discs: that clever advertising made people make unnecessary purchases.

The invention of the transistor in New Jersey at Christmas 1947 was meant to signal the end for the fragile, glass vacuum tubes used to amplify sound since 1917. Transistors were smaller and cheaper to produce. The valve amp needed to heat up to work, and caused a small inaccuracy in how sound was reproduced.

Within nine years, the transistor had revolutionised sound technology. By the 1960s, radios had become smaller and more affordable. The transistor's inventors, John Bardeen, Walter Brat-



A Philco valve radio of 1934, in Gothic design

tain and William Shockley, received the Nobel Prize for physics in 1956. Today's tiny transistors have been refined to produce an almost perfect amplification of the original sound.

However, this perfect reproduction is precisely what some music producers reject. Lemon D, whose record label is called Valve, says: "They represent an era before digital technology came about. It's a unique sound."

The sound achieved through a valve is said to be fuller and smoother. It is this "fatter" noise which is the basis of drum n'bass music. However, fans of the valve amp are not necessarily fans of drum n'bass.

Gerry Wells owns The Vintage Wireless Museum in South London. Aged 68, he also prefers the sound produced by the valve. "It's far superior," he says. "Transistors are clinically perfect. The valve isn't, but then again

neither are our ears, so the effect is much more pleasant for our hearing."

Mr Wells has worked with valve amplifiers since he was 7, and thinks the public was fooled by advertising into converting to transistors. He says that although valves are more expensive to make than the transistor, they last far longer. In his museum, he has one valve, still working on a daily basis, which was manufactured in 1929.

Mr Wells uses original valves to repair old wirelesses, many of which are owned by very young customers. "Young people who had never heard valve amp systems are now starting to listen to them — that's why I'm in business," he added.

He feels that much modern music sounds fantastic on valve hi-fi: "If you also use speakers over thirty years old, the sound is lovely. Old speakers have matured. Together with valve amps, they can make a very powerful amount of noise."

Richard McMahon, a lecturer in electrical engineering at Cambridge University, has built a valve amplifier which creates a pure sound on a par with that of the transistor hi-fi, and admits that he owns a



Sound buy: listening to a five-valve Windsor radiogram, which cost 41 guineas in 1950, before the transistor took over

valve system. He thinks that many musicians prefer the more colourful sound created by valve amplification. He said: "Some amplifiers are seen as a musical instrument with character, far less clinical than the transistor. Personally, there's a bit of magic about

their engineering. They reflect a pioneering age of electronics, and create an interest just not associated with transistor equipment."

Although valve amplifiers are still installed in a few modern hi-fis made by small independent companies,

many people are buying older models instead. Sales of antique bakelite radios from the 1930s have also increased in recent years, and can fetch up to £2,500 each.

Gad Sassower, who runs an antique wireless shop in Islington, North London, said:

"These radios were made to last and they can produce a massive amount of volume." Unfortunately the antiques were built long before FM was introduced, and can tune only to medium and long wave, where buyers are unlikely to find much drum n'bass.

Boy, 4, saves epileptic mother

A BOY aged 4 who stopped traffic when his mother collapsed in the road with an epileptic fit was praised yesterday. Anthony Severn stood with one hand up to stop cars and the other over his eyes.

His mother, Julie, 30, of Sherwood, Nottingham, suffered the fit as she was taking Anthony and his two-year-old sister, Lindsey, to nursery school. Mrs Severn said: "He was petrified because he thought we would both be run over. Anthony is a real hero because he put his own neck on the line for me. Luckily, the drivers managed to brake."

She said that both Anthony and his sister were used to her condition. Mrs Severn has been epileptic since childhood and has serious fits about once a month.

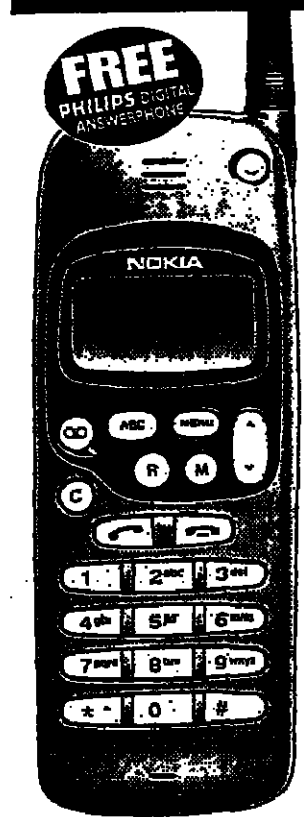
"He always tries to look after me but this was something different. He tells me it was nothing but he has told his grandma all about it," she said.

"When she picked him up from playschool later that day the first thing he did was ask if I was all right. We are very proud of him. He is a very brave little boy." (PA News)



Gad Sassower: "These radios were made to last"

BEST EVER DEAL!



Nokia 1611

- FREE PHILIPS DIGITAL ANSWERPHONE
- FREE CONNECTION WORTH £35
- FREE LINE RENTAL UNTIL JAN '98
- FREE 6 MONTHS LINE RENTAL IN YEAR 2 WORTH £105.00
- FREE NOKIA PHONE WORTH £9.99
- FREE UP TO 100 WORTH OF CALLS PER MONTH
- FREE PORTABLE HANDS FREE MIN WORTH £45
- FREE LEATHER CARRY CASE WITH CHARGES
- FREE 3 MONTHS INSURANCE WORTH £147
- FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY
- 100 HOUR BATTERY
- PER SECOND BILLING
- 10.21p (12p net) 34.99p (40p net) 10.21p (12p net) 34.99p (40p net)

NOKIA 1611
• Latest Nokia GSM Phone
• 3.5 hours talk time
• Identifies incoming caller

Have your credit card to hand and Dial-a-Phone now on Freephone 0800 00 00 77 24 Hours

Currys

STARTS TODAY

SALE

PLUS

BUY NOW PAY 1999

ON A HUGE RANGE OF TOP BRAND PRODUCTS +

4 DAY DISCOUNTS

HURRY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE

SAVE £120
A TOTAL OF £120
BOSCH Full Size Dishwasher Model S60002, Was £319.99, In-store Price £199.99, Voucher Price £399.99

SAVE £150
A TOTAL OF £150
CANDY 2300 Series Automatic Model C2300, Was £299.99, In-store Price £149.99, Voucher Price £249.99

SAVE £90
A TOTAL OF £90
GRUNDIG 21" SECAM TV with Remote Model T2100, Was £229.99, In-store Price £139.99, Voucher Price £239.99

SAVE £100
A TOTAL OF £100
ELECTROLUX Upright Chiller Model FREFRIG SYSTEM 1710, Was £229.99, In-store Price £129.99, Voucher Price £129.99

SAVE £150
A TOTAL OF £150
STOVES Four Burner Gas Cooker Model NEWHOME 5100S, Was £249.99, In-store Price £99.99, Voucher Price £399.99

SAVE £80
A TOTAL OF £80
PANASONIC SECAM Video with VHS Player and VCR Model VHS2000, Was £279.99, In-store Price £199.99, Voucher Price £299.99

SAVE £250
A TOTAL OF £250
COMPAQ 286 PC with 32.0K RAM, Model 286, Was £299.99, In-store Price £49.99, Voucher Price £1349.99

SAVE £50
A TOTAL OF £50
HITACHI Commander Model VHS2000, Was £279.99, In-store Price £129.99, Voucher Price £329.99

SAVE £80
A TOTAL OF £80
MATSUI 21" SECAM TV Model 2100, Was £249.99, In-store Price £169.99, Voucher Price £99.99

SAVE £100
A TOTAL OF £100
AIWA 21" SECAM TV Model 2100, Was £249.99, In-store Price £149.99, Voucher Price £349.99

SAVE £80
A TOTAL OF £80
FREE PRINTER

Only Currys Drive Your Deal

LOWEST PRICES ON THE SPOT
WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN

BUY NOW PAY UP TO 12 MONTHS LATER

MASTERCARD
Coverplan

BUY NOW PAY 1999
WITH ALL PRODUCTS OVER £100 WHEN PURCHASED ON A MASTERCARD CREDIT/DEBIT CARD

EXCLUSIVE MODELS & OFFERS
A few exceptional value, exclusive to DSG Retail Ltd.

START CREDIT
With Currys Priority Advantage Account you can take advantage of any credit offer in-store. Ask for details.

AWARD WINNING IN-STORE REPAIR SERVICE
Repairs 7 days a week. Same day wherever possible.

Currys

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORES

All Superstores offer easy parking. Late night shopping and Sunday opening. Ring 0990 500049 for details of your nearest store. Written quotations from Currys, Dept MK, Watford, Herts HP21 7TG. Currys are licensed credit brokers. Ask in-store for details.

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!

Look out for the special voucher on selected products throughout the sale. Simply take the voucher to any Currys store to claim your discount. Cheques and cash payments. Some offers are not available at selected Currys stores. For terms and other offers, please visit our website at www.currys.co.uk or call 0990 500049. Voucher prices valid only until Monday 28th December 1997 unless otherwise stated.

Tomorrow in
THE
SATURDAY
TIMES

metro



**LINUS
ROACHE**
Hollywood's
favourite Brit



The great
new comic

Carey urges society to rediscover its faith

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, yesterday called for a more caring society, which he said should be achieved by a restoration of Christian values.

Dr Carey, preaching at Canterbury Cathedral, said that his ministry over the past year had taken him to places where there had been human grief and problems that seemed unsurpassable. But faith had supplied hope on such occasions, as in the case of the Ugandan bishop whose wife was killed when she stepped on a landmine, or the AIDS victim in New York who faced death with cheerfulness.

Christmas "tells us there will only be peace on Earth and goodwill towards one another when we rightly balance our demands for rights with the recognition of our responsibilities towards our neighbour", he said.

Referring to the plight of the homeless and single mothers, he said that the Church should remember its humble roots. God was "not absent from the poor, the broken-hearted, the refugee and the homeless, not

Archbishop of Canterbury tells
how belief can help to deal with
problems, reports Ruth Gledhill

absent from the single mother, the person living on the breadline and the unemployed teenager, but with them as with all of us."

The story of how Jesus was born in a stable was proof that religion was not the preserve of the rich and powerful. "Here is God coming to us not with trumpets, not with the splendour of royal courts nor the trimmings of power, but in weakness — meekness and majesty, the majesty of weakness and the meekness of true divinity."

Referring to Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, he said: "Has life got any point to it? Is everything so random, so pointless, so utterly amoral that when your time comes — phut! That's it." But, he continued, "God is here already. In all the difficulties and joys of life. In the midst of the

devastation, horror and misery as well as of renewal, celebration and hope, we find this tiny child waiting for us to respond to Him."

"And it is that belief which can provide the strongest foundation for a caring Church and a caring society."

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, addressing Roman Catholics from around the world at a packed Westminster Cathedral at the main Christmas Day Mass, referred to evocative descriptions of the incarnation and the Nativity in the Gospels.

He said: "Look at the child lying there on the straw. Forget anything you have heard or read from people wanting to reduce Christmas to be no more than a myth. Like a fairy tale, one to preserve because it is traditional

or quaint." Worshippers should take time to "kneel at the crib" and profess their faith in the "great truth that God became man and dwelt among us," he said.

"Kneel at the crib and look at that child lying on the straw in the manger and then those words, glory to God, in the highest and peace to persons of goodwill, will begin to dawn on your mind, and you will find yourself wanting to sing them. That is what matters."

The Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, preaching at York Minster, recalled the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. "There was a quite spectacular and almost overwhelming sense of shock and grief," he said. "There was also a recognition of the Princess's human frailty, coupled with large questions about the meaning and purpose of life."

"How can the Church respond?" he asked. "It will certainly not be by changed structures or improved management, important though these may be, but rather in the contemplation of the awesome mystery which is Christmas."



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, before yesterday's service

Pope calls for well-off to aid 'new poor'

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Pope in his Christmas *urbi et orbi* to the City and the World message called yesterday for the well-off to help "the ever-growing multitude of the new poor", including the homeless and unemployed and young victims of paedophilia and drugs.

He prefaced his greetings, delivered in 56 languages, by announcing that he will visit next week the victims of the earthquake in the central Italian regions of Umbria and the Marche.

Speaking in a strong voice from the central loggia of St Peter's Basilica, the 77-year-old took up his by-now recurring theme of the ills of unbridled capitalism, saying he found "distressing... the tense silence of men and women without work and without shelter, infants and children injured and violated, adolescents enlisted in the wars of adults and young victims of drugs or attracted by deceptive myths".

The pontiff also decried the plight of refugees, "the sufferings of peoples fleeing to the mountains of their own land or seeking a safe haven on the coasts of neighbouring countries, in order to pursue the faint hope of a less precarious and more secure existence".

He praised "those who give generously to breaking down barriers of fear and aggression, promoting understanding between peoples of different origins, colour and religious creeds".

The pontiff said he hoped his greeting would reach with particular warmth "the populations of Umbria and the

Marche, stricken recently by the earthquake and still now in situations of suffering and discomfort".

"I am near to you in a special way in these days, thinking how the Son of God, when He was born at Bethlehem, did not find a place in a house, but in a stable and was placed in a manger."

The Pope said he would visit the stricken areas on January 3. The Vatican spokesman said John Paul II would stop at the village of Anagnino in the Apennines, at the epicentre of the October quake, where only seven houses remain habitable. The village is in the worst hit diocese, Foligno. At Assisi the Pope will pray at the tomb of St Francis. In spite of such disasters, the Pope recalled that "all are called to share in the joy of Christmas... a day of extraordinary gladness". He noted that "this straying humanity of ours" is "journeying towards the third millennium".

The Pope considers that ushering in the third Christian millennium is now the main objective of his pontificate, to be marked by the special jubilee he has called in Rome. In his Christmas Eve homily, John Paul said his Christmas wish was for peace for humanity.

Some Vatican watchers saw part of his homily as an olive branch for the Jews and Israelis, which the Pope hopes will allow him to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2000. The Pontiff referred to the Jews as "the chosen people" selected "to bring to the world the Messiah, the Saviour and Redeemer of all humanity".

**"The tense
silence of
people
without
jobs causes
distress"**

School assembly under threat

By Ruth Gledhill

THE traditional school assembly is in danger as pressure grows to end the legal requirement for daily worship for pupils.

The Government will face renewed pressure in the spring to end present rulings after a survey disclosed strong support from teachers.

Although churches and non-Christian groups are divided on the issue, the consultation showed strong backing for change among professional staff.

According to the *Church Times*, the Government has pledged to consider the recommendations of the consultation, which was sponsored by bodies including the religious education council and the interfaith network.

Any change is likely to be strongly opposed by the churches, although the Methodists supported

change, and the federal council of the Free Church also offered "reluctant support".

The Roman Catholic Church and a majority of the Evangelical Alliance are strongly in favour of collective worship. The Church of England declined to support or oppose it.

Jewish people and Muslims indicated that they wanted a change in the rules to allow other faith groups to hold their own acts of worship as well.

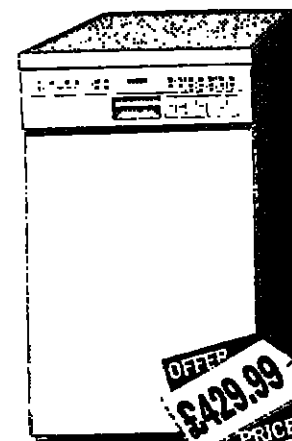
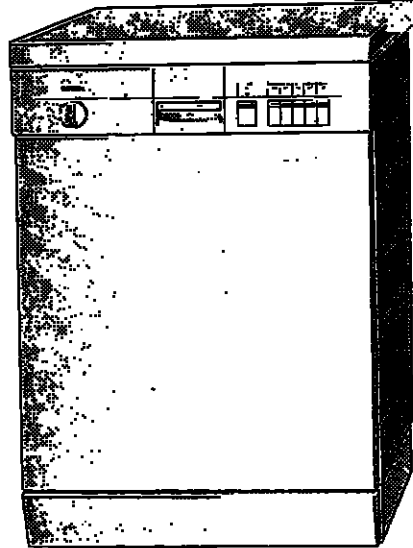
A seminar on the issue will be held in London next February, organised by Liz Paver, president of the National Association of Head Teachers, who is a member of the board of education. She believes that the requirement to hold daily worship is putting an unreasonable burden on head teachers.

January
The Sale of Excellence
BOSCH

THE UK's No 1 BRAND
FOR DISHWASHERS

OFFER
£369.99
PRICE

**SGS 5002
60cm dishwasher**
• 5 programmes
• 3 cleaning temperatures
• Adjustable top basket
• Stainless steel interior
• Quick wash
• 12 place settings
• Very quiet operation



SGS 5302 60cm dishwasher
• 5 programmes • 3 cleaning temperatures
• Adjustable top basket • Quick wash
• Electronically controlled • 12 place settings
• Very quiet operation **£399.99**

SGS 6312 60cm dishwasher
• 6 programmes • 4 cleaning temperatures
• Adjustable top basket • Delay timer
• Electronically controlled • 12 place settings
• Extremely quiet operation **£449.99**

SPS 6462 45cm dishwasher
• 6 programmes • 3 temperatures
• Energy saving heat exchanger
• 8 place settings • Extremely quiet



KGV 3201 Fridge Freezer
• 'Frost Free' system
• 60cm wide • C energy rating
• Totally CFC and HFC free
• 4 shelves (3 height adjustable)
• Fridge capacity 6.7 cu.ft. (net)
• Freezer capacity 3.6 cu.ft. (net)

KGV 2604 Fridge Freezer
• Totally CFC and HFC free
• 2 drawer freezer
• 60cm wide • B energy rating
• Fridge capacity 6.8 cu.ft. (net)
• Freezer capacity 2.2 cu.ft. (net)

GSD 2617 Upright Freezer
• Totally CFC and HFC free
• 4 star freezer • C energy rating
• Superfast freezing
• Easy access handle
• Optical and acoustic warning system
• Capacity 7.4 cu.ft. (net)

£369.99

£499.99

KSV 2402 Fridge Freezer
• Totally CFC and HFC free
• 4 shelves (3 height adjustable)
• 55cm wide • B energy rating
• Fridge capacity 6.0 cu.ft. (net)
• Freezer capacity 2.0 cu.ft. (net)



Dishwashers
Washing Machines
Refrigeration

Economical & Superior wash
Performance Washing Machines

WFK 2801 Washing Machine
• '3D AquaSpa' wash system
• Wash performance 'A'
• Electronically controlled through 'Fuzzy Logic'
• 1400 Spin speed
• Very quiet • Time delay
• Remaining time indicator
• LED display • Softline design



WFF 2000 Washing Machine
• 3D AquaSpa
• Wash class 'B'
• 1000 spin speed
• Very quiet • Fuzzy Logic
• Time delay • Short wash
• Softline design



WFB 2004
• Primo wash system
• 1000 spin speed
• Spin speed reduction
• Economy option
• Rinse hold

WFB 1400
• Primo wash system
• 800 spin speed • Rinse hold
• 11 programmes
£369.99



KTG 1401 Fridge
• Totally CFC free
• 2 safety glass shelves
• 50cm wide (Not Softline)
• Fridge capacity 4.1 cu.ft. (net)
• Ice box 0.5 cu.ft. (net)

KTR 1430 Larder Fridge
• Totally CFC and HFC free • 3 safety glass shelves • 50cm wide (Not Softline)
• Fridge capacity 5.0 cu.ft. (net)

GSD 1100 Tabletop Freezer
• Totally CFC and HFC free • 4 star freezer
• 50cm wide (Not Softline)
• Matches KTR 1430 • Capacity 3.1 cu.ft. (net)

BOSCH
Excellence comes as standard

Prices may vary from store to store. Prices shown are manufacturers suggested selling prices between 26th December 1997 and 31st January 1998.

Available from leading department stores and major electrical retailers.
For further information please call for free brochure and local stockist list on 01233 211500 (24 hours 7 days a week).
Robert Bosch Domestic Appliances, Grand Union House, Old Wolverton Road, Wolverton, Milton Keynes MK12 5PT.

مکان الدنیا

Sales: where they are on, and what is coming off

Lisa Grainger provides counter-intelligence for shoppers who want to spy out the best bargains

ON TODAY

□ Aquascutum
100 Regent Street, W1 (0800 282922). Until Jan 31.

Up to 50 per cent off selected lines. Womenswear: silk blouses were £175, now £85; cashmere coats from £125 to £75; wool jackets were £350, sale £175; short raincoats were £350, now £175; quilted silk jackets from £225 to £125; Menswear: corduroy trousers were £125, now £65; cotton business shirts were £59, sale £39; cashmere knitwear was £225, sale £125; leisure shirts from £79 to £55.

□ Armando Pollini

35 Brook Street, W1 (071-629 7606). Until end Jan.

From 30 to 40 per cent reductions. Leather knee-length boots from £188 to £90.

□ Bertie

36 South Molton Street, W1 (071-492 5033) and branches.

Many items at half price; old stock items from £10 to £20.

□ Country Casuals

1-5 Poland Street, W1 (071-287 5181) and branches (0121-212 2405).

Up to 50 per cent reduction on casual wear, chunky knitwear and most accessories.

□ Diesel

55 Argyle Street, WC1 (071-833 2255).

Up to 5 per cent reduction on selected items.

□ Episode

172 Regent Street, W1 (071-499 3561) and branches (0121-589 4279).

Black velvet trouser suit, jacket was £219, now £153; trousers were £129, sale £90.

□ Heene

261-271 Regent Street, W1 (071-495 4003) and branches.

Up to 50 per cent reduction on all sale stock. Black lace cardigan from £29.99 to £14.99; black velvet shirt from £19.99 to £9.99.

□ Jaeger

202-206 Regent Street, W1 (071-200 4070); 100 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-200 4211).

Discounts 20-50 per cent, eg. 52 per cent off black beaded evening dress, 53 per cent off Cashmere sleeveless pullover.

□ Kingshill Mail Order

For Kingshill British Designer Collections catalogue and Diffusion catalogue, call 01944 890555.

25 per cent off all designer styles.

□ Miss Selfridge

All branches (0181-910 1359 or 071-438 4182).

Short-sleeved dresses were £25, now £10; long coats with fur collar were £125, sale £65; chenille V-necks were £20, now £10.

□ Nicole Farhi

184-188 Oxford Street, W1 (071-436 3126) and branches (071-631 0234).

No details available.

□ River Island

Branches nationwide (0181-998 8822).

Black hooded trousers were £24.99, now £12.99; chocolate pin-stripe jacket was £49.99, sale £29.99.

□ Russell & Bromley

24-25 New Bond Street, London W1; 41 branches (071-629 0403).

Discounts 30-50 per cent.

□ Valentino

74 Sloane Street, SW1 (071-235 5855); Miss Valentino, 160 New Bond Street, W1 (071-493 2698). Until mid-Jan.

Up to 60 per cent off selected items.

□ Whistles

12-14 St Christopher's Place, W1, and branches nationwide (071-887 4884).

20-50 per cent off selected items.

□ Jane Churchill

151 Sloane Street, SW1 (071-730 9847) until Jan 15; Liberty, Regent Street, W1 (071-734 1234); 13 Piccadilly, Cambridge (0223 323211).

check branches for dates. Up to 30 per cent reduction on selected items.

STARTING TOMORROW

□ Austin Reed
Branches nationwide (0800 585470).

Menswear: double-breasted navy suit was £279, now £199. Women's wear: co-ordinating trousers were £89.50, sale £44.75; tan/stone/navy mock chambray shirts were £99, now £49.50; navy double-breasted jacket was £259, sale price £129.50.

□ Beaton
Regent Street megastore sale. For branches dates, 071-647 4200.

Up to 50 per cent reductions.

□ Betty Jackson

311 Brompton Road, SW3 (071-589 7894).

All reductions 30 per cent: eg. sheepskin coat was £780, now £546; marino sweaters were £143, sale £100; suede trousers were £429, now £300.

□ Bhs

252-258 Oxford Street, W1 (071-262 3288); 139 branches.

Up to 30 per cent off selected items across all departments.

□ Burberry

18-22 Haymarket, SW1; 165 Regent Street, W1 (071-734 4060).

Selected items up to 50 per cent off, eg. women's trenchcoats were £575, sale £375; cashmere coats were £895, now £595; men's checked shirts £85, now £45; blazers were £325, sale £195.

□ Burton

Branches nationwide (071-291-2511).

Many lines up to a third off.

□ C&A

Branches nationwide (071-629 1244).

Up to 50 per cent off clothes for all the family.

□ Debenhams

334-348 Oxford Street, W1, and branches (071-580 3000).

Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the store.

□ Deans

High Street, Yeovil, Somerset (0935 444444). Until Jan 24.

Up to 50 per cent off men's and women's fashions and household goods.

□ Donna Karan

101 Bond Street, W1 (071-495 3100).

Discounts off selected items.

□ DKNY

27 Old Bond Street, W1 (071-499 8089).

20-70 per cent off autumn/winter collection.

□ Emporio Armani

191 Brompton Road, SW3 (071-623 8818); 57-59 Long Acre, WC2 (071-497 6882); 128 New Bond Street, W1 (071-491 8000); Manchester (0161-839 8289); Glasgow (0141-552 2277).

Reductions of 30 and 50 per cent.

□ Fenwick

New Bond Street, W1 (071-629 9161) and branches.

Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the store and extra 10 per cent off sale prices 9.30am-1pm today. Women's wear: Nicole Farhi swing coats with fake fur collar in wool/cashmere reduced from £429 to £299; Christian Lacroix plain or print jeans from £75 to £49.

□ French Connection

24 Regent Street, W1, and branches (071-580 2507).

Up to 30 per cent off selected items.

□ Giorgio Armani

37 Sloane Street, SW1 (071-235 6232).

Reductions of 30 and 50 per cent.

□ Harvey Nichols

109-125 Knightsbridge, SW1 (071-235 5000). Until Jan 11.

Up to 50 per cent off many items. During first four days additional 10 per cent discount for Harvey Nichols account holders. Tocco embroidered dress was £295, sale price £177; Donna Karan Signature charcoal stripe suit from £1,040 to £520; Galliano ruffe dress with rose was £1,025, now £512.50; CK cashmere coat was £2,340, sale £1,170. Menswear: selected Kenzo shirts were £70, sale £35; CK leather jacket from £590 to £354; Giorgio Armani wool suit was £615, now £399; Dolce & Gabbana leather bag from £435 to £217.50; Mulberry wallpaper was £27.50 per roll, sale £7; Designers Guild duvet set was £65, now £45.

□ Hoopers

Cheltenham (01242 52505); Chichester (01243 53303); Torquay (01803 218754); Tunbridge Wells (01892 530222); Hangers for Men, Tunbridge Wells (01892 530223) and Wilmshurst (01625 525381); Bradford (01274 491311); Harrogate (01423 504091). For details, call free 0800 318216.

Up to 50 per cent off co-ordinated separates, including Moschino, Mulberry, Olsen, Gerry Weber; contemporary fashions eg. Marella, Fink, Jean-Paul; and a selection of evening wear.

□ House of Fraser

Army & Navy, Victoria Street, SW1 (071-434 1234); Barkers, Kensington High Street, W8 (071-937 5432); Dickens & Jones.

□ House of Fraser

Army & Navy, Victoria Street, SW1 (071-434 1234); Barkers, Kensington High Street, W8 (071-937 5432); Dickens & Jones.

□ House of Fraser

Army & Navy, Victoria Street, SW1 (071-434 1234); Barkers, Kensington High Street, W8 (071-937 5432); Dickens & Jones.

□ House of Fraser

Army & Navy, Victoria Street, SW1 (071-434 1234); Barkers, Kensington High Street, W8 (071-937 5432); Dickens & Jones.

□ House of Fraser

Army & Navy, Victoria Street, SW1 (071-434 1234); Barkers, Kensington High Street, W8 (071-937 5432); Dickens & Jones.

□ House of Fraser

Army & Navy, Victoria Street, SW1 (071-434 1234); Barkers, Kensington High Street, W8 (071-937 5432); Dickens & Jones.

Regent Street, W1 (071-734 7070); D.H. Evans, Oxford Street, W1 (071-629 8800) and stores nationwide (071-963 2236).

Menswear: up to 30 per cent off selected sportswear and 20 per cent off selected coats; £10 off Christian Dior dress shirts. Women's wear: up to 50 per cent off selected items. Home wear: 20-50 per cent off selected bed linen and goose-down & feather pillows; 50 per cent off selected towels; up to 50 per cent off selected cookware items. Electrical: Toshiba 21in Nissan colour television was £379.99, sale £299.99; Hoover A1100 autowasher was £399.99, now £329.99; Kenwood mini hi-fi was £329.99, sale price £229.99.

□ Joseph

26 Sloane Street, SW1 (071-235 5470); 23 Old Bond Street, W1 (071-629 3713); 28 Broad Street, W1 (071-629 4077); 124 Draycott Avenue, SW3 (071-225 0364); 77 Fulham Road, SW3, and general inquiries 071-623 9500.

Reductions starting at 30 per cent on selected items, including coats, trousers and leatherwear.

□ Kok Samui

65 Monmouth Street, WC2. (071-240 4280).

Up to 60 per cent off designer clothes.

□ Kookai

123 Kensington High Street, W8; 25 branches nationwide. Inquiries 071-437 4411.

No further details available.

□ Liberty

214-220 Regent Street, W1, and branches (071-734 1234). Until Jan 4.

Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the store. Gift-framed wall mirrors were £399, now £199; Jacquard cotton double bedspreads were £110, sale £55; white goose-down single duvet was £230, now £115; satin stripe bedlinen for double bed was £110, now £55; Shakespear sofa in brick and black chenille was £3,195, now £1,595; Royal Worcester bone china Garrick seconds set, dinner plate was £12.95, now £6.45. Five-piece set of Bonanza saucers were £170, sale price £99; Iranian Seraband carpet was £1,500, now £750. Women's wear: 50 per cent off Nicole Farhi, Ralph Lauren, John Galiano; Martin Kildman velvet jeans were £85, sale £42.50; Liberty long velvet devore scarves were £145, now £72.50; 50 per cent off Italian leather handbags (eg. black shoulder bag was £110, now £55). Menswear: Ralph Lauren polo shirts were £60, now £30; casual shirts were £90, sale £49; Alan Paine cashmere crew neck was £215, now £107.50; Liberty four-tie ties were £35, sale £17.50; Madder silk ties were £39.50, now £19.50.

□ Lilywhites

26-28 Regent Street, SW1 (071-915 4000). Eight branches nationwide.

Discounts on many lines at 25-50 per cent off.

□ Marks & Spencer

Marble Arch, Oxford Street, W1 (071-933 7954); 286 branches. Inquiries 071-933 4422.

End-of-season clearance.

□ Mazonara

32 Sloane Street, SW1 (071-235 7941); 153 New Bond Street, W1 (071-491 4748).

Up to 20 per cent off selected items.

□ Mossman

Branches nationwide (071-313 3000).

Up to 50 per cent off. Aster cardigan was £85, now £60; Geisha silk jacket was £199, sale £135; short strappy Suraya dress was £180, now £90; velvet evening coat was £175, sale £125. Accessorise shops are reducing selected items by 50 per cent, eg. suede gloves were £14.99, now £9.99; silver and amber rings were £19.99, sale £14.99.

□ Mulberry

41-42 New Bond Street, W1 (071-491 4223); 185 Brompton Road, SW1 (071-225 0313); York (01904 611055).

Up to 50 per cent off selected items, eg. silk taffeta blouse was £215, now £107.50; full-length velvet opera coat was £695, sale £347.50. Accessories: small Kelly bag was £345, sale £220. Home collection: Paisley tartan throw was £159, now £79.50; selected wallpaper, were £25 per roll, now £7.

□ Nest

Three hundred branches. Inquiries 016-284 9424.

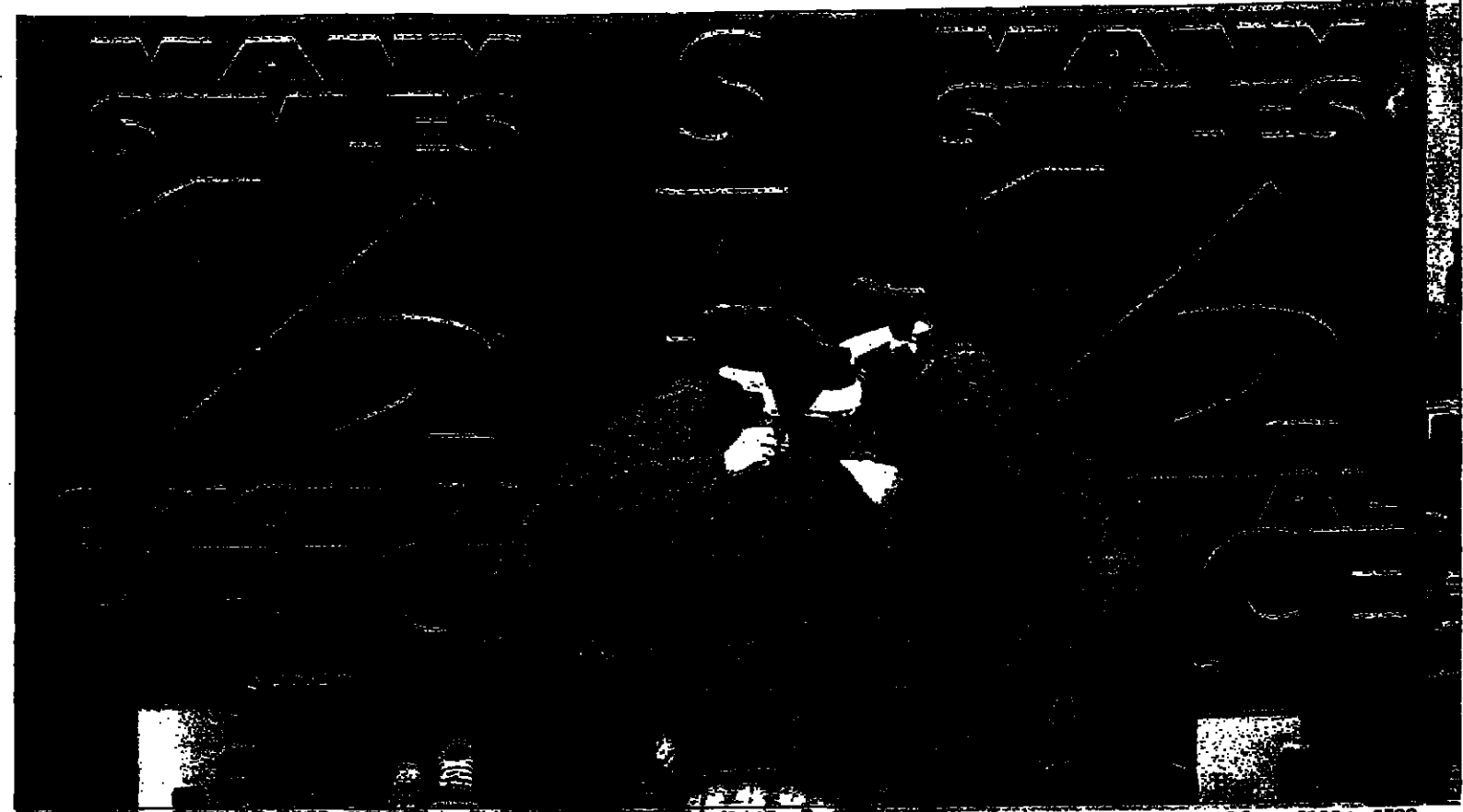
Up to 50 per cent off most items. Women's wear: Camel single-breasted stretch jacket was £99, now £49.99; stretch hooded trousers were £44.99, sale £19.99. Menswear: navy wool pinstripe jacket was £105, now £49.99. Reductions on children's wear and interiors.

□ Nougat

Nougat at Fenwick, Brent Cross (0181-202 8200); 111 Black, Manchester (0161-834 5160).

□ Oasis

202 Regent Street, W1, and



Good buys to greet shoppers who are quick off the mark range from short-sleeved dresses at £10 to camcorders reduced from £999 to £599

branches (071-452 1000).

Up to 50 per cent off selected items and bigger mark-downs from Dec 29. Tiger print skirts were £39.99, now £24.99; marble print jackets were £89.99, sale £49.99; crossover sequined dress was £59.99, now £39.99; up to 50 per cent off selected jewellery and accessories.

□ Patrick Cox

8 Symons Street, SW3 (071-730 6504). Patrick Cox Wannabe, 129 Sloane Street, SW1 (071-730 8886).

Up to 40 per cent off men's shoes and 30 per cent off women's; up to 30 per cent off other selected items.

□ Penhaligon's

20a Brook Street, W1 (071-493 0002), 16 Burlington Arcade, W1 (071-629 1416), 41 Wellington Street, WC2 (071-836 2150), until mid-Jan: 8 Royal Exchange, EC3 (071-283 0711), starts Dec 30.

Lords cologne spray from £27 to £15; Violeta bath essence was £21, now £15; Venetian cameo aqua and pearl earrings from £350 to £120; gilded enamel egg bonde was £125, sale £30.

□ Prada

43-45 Sloane Street, SW1 (071-235 0008).

Up to 30 per cent off autumn/winter collections.

□ Red or Dead

38 Kensington High Street, W8 (071-937 1649); 33 Neal Street, WC2.

Up to 40 per cent off all stock. Knee-high boots from £99 to £69; leather shoes from £75 to £49.

□ Reiss

114 King's Road, SW3; 116 Long Acre, WC2; 245 Regent Street, W1; and branches in Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and Glasgow (071-225 4900).

No further details available.

□ The Scotch House

2 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, SW1; 84-86 Regent Street, W1; 39-41 Princes Street, Edinburgh (071-581 2151).

Up to 40 per cent off a wide selection.

0002), 16 Burlington Arcade, W1 (071-629 1416), 41 Wellington Street, WC2 (071-836 2150), until mid-Jan: 8 Royal Exchange, EC3 (071-283 0711), starts Dec 30.

Lords cologne spray from £27 to £15; Violeta bath essence was £21, now £15; Venetian cameo aqua and pearl earrings from £350 to £120; gilded enamel egg bonde was £125, sale £30.

□ Prada

43-45 Sloane Street, SW1 (071-235 0008).

Up to 30 per cent off autumn/winter collections.

□ Red or Dead

38 Kensington High Street, W8 (071-937 1649); 33 Neal Street, WC2.

Up to 40 per cent off all stock. Knee-high boots from £99 to £69; leather shoes from £75 to £49.

□ Reiss

114 King's Road, SW3; 116 Long Acre, WC2; 245 Regent Street, W1; and branches in Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and Glasgow (071-225 4900).

No further details available.

□ The Scotch House

2 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, SW1; 84

Woody and Soon-Yi honeymoon in Paris

THE film director Woody Allen, whose on-screen neuroses are mirrored often in his overwrought personal life, has married Soon-Yi Previn, the adopted daughter of his former lover, the actress Mia Farrow.

Ms Farrow, who has described the couple's relationship as sick and perverted, is unlikely to be amused by a run of events that casts her in the awkward role of Mr Allen's mother-in-law.

Mr Allen, 62, married Ms Previn, 27, at a private ceremony in Venice, a city he loves as much as his native New York. The ceremony was conducted by Massimo Cacciari, the city's extrovert Mayor, at the Palazzo Cavalli, near the Rialto bridge on Venice's Grand Canal. He gave them a glass vase as a wedding gift — made specially in nearby Burano and depicting the city's La Fenice opera house, for whose restoration Mr Allen has been raising funds.

Beaming from ear to ear, Signor Cacciari said: "The wedding had been planned a while ago, and although we Italians are not good at keeping secrets, we were able to

A secret Venice wedding — latest twist to a saga aired in a US courtroom — leaves Mia Farrow as mother-in-law to her former lover, writes Tunku Varadarajan

keep this one secret till the end."

Neither Mr Allen nor Ms Previn would speak to the press, although Leslie Dart, the former's spokeswoman, did release a statement in which she said: "Six years ago, Woody and Soon-Yi decided that one day they would come back to Venice and get married. That day is very meaningful to them. Over the past years, they have weathered a lot together, and have always been very much in love."

Mr Allen's spokeswoman also said that he did not ask Ms Previn to sign a prenuptial agreement — prompting New York's famed divorce lawyer, Raoul Felder, to say: "Woody needs a psychiatrist more than an attorney."

The couple are reported to have arrived in Venice on Monday, where they stayed at the elegant Hotel Grim. Staff

there disclose that they took the hotel's best suite, a first-floor spread with a sumptuous view of the Grand Canal. Fittingly, the rooms had been featured by Mr Allen in his film *Everyone Says I Love You*, made last year.

The wedding took place on Tuesday evening, and was attended by Lettie Aronson, Mr Allen's sister, and a handful of very close friends. After exchanging their vows in Italian, the couple resorted to the oldest trick in the Venetian book — the gondola.

While the Mayor's men ensured that the paparazzi were kept at bay, they spent an hour on the water. Onlookers say that the two were very tactile, and that the gondolier serenaded them with a series of mellifluous arias.

They left for Paris the next day, where they are staying at the Ritz before returning to

New York in the new year. Mr Allen is booked to play the saxophone at the city's Café Carlyle on January 5. They will continue to live in their Fifth Avenue penthouse, the home which they have shared for two years.

The relationship between Mr Allen and Ms Previn is at least six years old. When news of the liaison broke, a considerable furor erupted. Ms Previn, born in South Korea, was adopted by Ms Farrow and André Previn, the conductor and pianist, when eight years old, and Mr Allen had acted as a surrogate father to her during his relationship with Ms Farrow.

In 1992, however, Ms Farrow discovered that the two were romantically involved, finding a portfolio of nude photographs of Ms Previn at Mr Allen's Manhattan apartment.

The aftermath is best described as messy. Ms Farrow is reported to have broken a chair over her daughter's head and locked her in a closet. Mr Allen lost rights to his two children, Sachel and Dylan, both of whom live with Ms Farrow.



Woody Allen and his bride in Paris, where they are staying until the new year

Hair pill heads for sale in Britain

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

MAKERS of the new prescription pill approved to fight male baldness in America are hoping to make it available soon in Britain.

The British subsidiary of Merck and Co of Pennsylvania has applied for a licence to the Medical Control Agency in London. A total of 14 men in Leeds, Bradford and Sheffield took part in testing along with nearly 2,000 in America that led to approval of the pill by the US Food and Drug Administration.

The drug, Propecia, has to be taken daily. In the tests, it increased hair growth in 48 per cent of balding men after one year, with 18 per cent enjoying a moderate or even dense growth, according to an independent panel of dermatologists. The pills will cost up to \$50 (£30) a month.

The drug is not recommended for women because it causes birth defects. In 2 per cent of men it can cause loss of sex drive and impotence, effects that disappear if they stop taking the drug.

Clinton wipes slate clean for butter thief

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IT WAS only a stroke of the pen for President Clinton, but for Ray Weaver, 74, it removed the stain of the "biggest failure of my life".

Fifty years ago, Mr Weaver pleaded guilty at his US Navy court martial to stealing 4lb of butter. He was reduced one level in rank from chief radioman to radioman first class.

This year, Mr Clinton signed an executive grant of clemency, a pardon that erased the only blemish Mr Weaver ever incurred.

Yesterday, as his 11 grandchildren unwrapped their gifts, Mr Weaver was ecstatic. "It's a marvellous feeling after the 50 years I've kept this bottled up. The pardon is the biggest thing in my life."

Now retired and living in St Petersburg, Florida, Mr Weaver applied for the pardon more than a year ago. Since then, he said, he had worried that Mr Clinton would be too busy with his trip to Bosnia to grant a pardon.

Mr Weaver admitted that the chief cook at his base twice gave him 2lb of butter from supplies that he took home to his wife.

He served another 16 years in the Navy, but the number of chief radiomen was reduced and he never recovered his former rank.

Mr Weaver was one of 21 Americans to receive Christmas pardons for long-ago federal offences ranging from bank robbery to fraud and operating a bootleg still. All now lead lives beyond reproach but felt the need to seek presidential redemption.

Among them was Ralph

Limbaugh, 66, who, with a conviction for stealing a case of sparking plugs on his record, has been unable to own a gun for more than 20 years. A life member of the National Rifle Association, he can now take up hunting again.

In New York, Republican Governor George Pataki commuted long terms for three first-time offenders, all model prisoners, who had fallen victim to the state's drug-sentencing codes. They had received mandatory terms of 15 years to life for low-level crimes.

Such unbending laws are part of an increasing national problem that has clogged America's jails with non-violent drug offenders who would be better off receiving treatment for addiction or performing community work.

The best-known beneficiary yesterday was Angela Thompson, who was sentenced in 1969 at the age of 17 for trying to sell 2oz of cocaine to an undercover police officer at the direction of her uncle, a Harlem drug dealer who was also her legal guardian.

The trial judge had tried to pass a lesser sentence but was overruled by the state appeal court. "This case is bringing me to tears," the judge wrote in protest.

Miss Thompson, who has served eight years and three months, passed high school and college courses in prison and has been supervising a centre where children visit their imprisoned mothers. She was not eligible for parole until September 2004.

Food flights save Afghan victims

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

TENS of thousands of Shia Muslims surrounded by Sunni forces in central Afghanistan are being saved from starvation by emergency food deliveries from World Food Programme aircraft.

Up to 2,500 tonnes of food are being delivered so the Shias can survive the winter. They are blockaded by Taliban militiamen who have stopped food lorries getting into the Bamian region — one of the few they have failed to capture. The first relief aircraft, flying out of the Pakistani border city of Peshawar, carried a storage shelter and equipment for handling food.

The World Food Programme announced: "The Taliban blockade on the south and civil strife in the north have meant that very little food has been able to enter or leave the area."

With shortages so acute, wheat prices are beyond the pockets of all but a few. Trading across the region's borders has halted, driving people deeper into poverty. Taliban has been refusing to let food be delivered on the ground that it would fall into

the hands of opposition troops. The prospect of mass civilian starvation finally persuaded them to relent.

The World Food Programme has been trying to get food in since May, but with the collapse of security all stocks were looted on the road. Bamian province, controlled by the Hezbi-Wahadat faction, is incapable of producing enough food. Relief supplies will be distributed to 160,000 people, most malnourished and desperate.

The United Nations Security Council has deplored the unwillingness of warring groups to lay down arms and fears the country is in danger of disintegrating. The UN also expressed concern about mass killings, details of which were revealed after officials found graves for up to 2,000 fighters, mostly Taliban.

They were apparently butchered in an around Mazar-i-Sharif, scene of fighting in May last year. The UN's warning reflects the view of many Afghan analysts that a formal partition is the only viable solution for the country.

COMET Sale

You can't buy better

INTEREST FREE OPTION

ON A WIDER RANGE OF PRODUCTS IN STORE

Whirlpool

9.8 CU.FT GROSS FRIDGE FREEZER

- 5.7 cu.ft. gross fridge capacity
- 4.1 cu.ft. gross freezer capacity
- Fast freeze facility • Automatic fridge defrost
- 2 salad drawers • 3 shelves

Model: APT781, was £369.99 sale £249.99

3 DAYS ONLY £229.99 SAVE £170

EXTRA SAVING ON SALE PRICE

Indesit WASHING MACHINE

- 800 spin speed • 11lb wash load
- 8 programme combinations
- Gentle woolens programme • Hot and cold fill

Model: WG324, was £239.99 previously £319.99 sale £229.99

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

3 DAYS ONLY £219.99 SAVE £100

EXTRA SAVING ON SALE PRICE

HOOVER UPRIGHT CLEANER

- 900 watts power
- Edge-to-edge vacuuming, cleans right up to the wall
- Stair cleaning tool • On-board tools
- Floor surface adjuster - adapts to carpets or floors

Model: U2000, was £89.99 previously £109.99 sale £79.99

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

3 DAYS ONLY £74.99 SAVE £65

EXTRA SAVING ON SALE PRICE

98% CLEAROUT

AN EXTRA 25% OFF

To make way for new ranges we are clearing a wide range of last year's lines now available with an extra 25% off in-store marked prices with this voucher. These products may be ex-display, cosmetically damaged or previously sold and returned. Look for this symbol to store.

29.9% APR

LAUNDRY

UP TO 72 PRODUCTS TO CHOOSE FROM

Hotpoint

1100 SPIN AQUARIUS WASHING MACHINE

- 500-1100 spin speed
- 12lb wash load
- Clock wash
- Economy wash
- Aquarius Wash System Plus

Model: WM63, was £499.99 sale £399.99

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

3 DAYS ONLY £399.99 SAVE £100

REFRIGERATION

UP TO 100 PRODUCTS TO CHOOSE FROM

DAEWOO

4.8 GROSS CUBIT FRIDGE WITH ICE BOX

- 4.8 cu.ft. gross capacity
- 2 shelves, Model: FR142

was £199.99 sale £149.99

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

3 DAYS ONLY £149.99 SAVE £60

COOKERS

UP TO 120 TO CHOOSE FROM

Electric Cooker

- Double oven • Ceramic hob
- Halogen zone • Glass door
- Easy clean finish

Model: FORTM1, was £279.99 sale £199.99

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

3 DAYS ONLY £199.99 SAVE £80

MICROWAVES

UP TO 40 TO CHOOSE FROM

PRO-LITE BLUE TOUCH

CONTROL MICROWAVE

- 750 watts IEC
- 0.8 cu.ft. capacity
- 10 power levels

Model: ST22 BLUE, was £89.99 sale £69.99

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

3 DAYS ONLY £69.99 SAVE £20

EXTRA SAVINGS ON GAMES SOFTWARE WITH THIS VOUCHER

SAVE AN EXTRA £10

Available on all PlayStation, Nintendo 64, Sega Saturn & PC CD-ROM games

THE COMET PRICE CANNOT BE BEATEN

The Comet Price Promise guarantees that if you buy any product from us, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ask in store for full details.

MONEY BACK WARRANTY

With a 5-year Super Cover Extended Warranty, a single premium payment guarantees five years comprehensive cover against product breakdown. If, after five years, you've made no claim, you can get all your warranty money back in full. Ask in store for full details.

VIDEOS

UP TO 45 TO CHOOSE FROM

TOSHIBA VIDEOPLUS-1 VIDEO

Programme delivery control • Long play

Model: V228, was £229.99 sale £179.99

EXTRA SAVING ON SALE PRICE

3 DAYS ONLY £179.99 SAVE £50

TV/VIDEO PACKAGES & TVs

UP TO 110 TO CHOOSE FROM

TOSHIBA NIMAX STEREO VIDEO

Log sketched recording • Pushbutton control

Model: VHS7, was £399.99 sale £359.99

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

3 DAYS ONLY £359.99 SAVE £40

CAMCORDERS

UP TO 25 TO CHOOSE FROM

JVC VHS-C CAMCORDER

- 26x digital zoom lens
- Image stabiliser
- Wide angle lens
- Macro facility

Model: DVCAM, was £549.99 sale £469.99

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

3 DAYS ONLY £469.99 SAVE £80

HI-FI SYSTEMS

UP TO 90 TO CHOOSE FROM

aiwa

3 DISC MULTIPLE CD WITH HI-FI

- 180° front surround sound • 125 watts RMS output

Model: NSX-570, was £279.99 sale £259.99

EXTRA SAVING ON SALE PRICE

3 DAYS ONLY £259.99 SAVE £20

VACUUM CLEANERS

UP TO 50 TO CHOOSE FROM

Electrolux

COMPACT CYLINDER CLEANER

- 1500 watts power
- Low noise level • On-board tools

Model: 2001, was £199.99 sale £149.99

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

3 DAYS ONLY £149.99 SAVE £50

EXTENDING YOUR VOUCHER

WINK

SALE

VOUCHERS

BUY NOW - 12 MONTHS

VIDEOS & CA

Kaunda sent to jail over coup attempt

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

KENNETH KAUNDA, the 73-year-old former President of Zambia, was arrested early yesterday at his home in Lusaka, the capital, and imprisoned under the country's state of emergency laws — presumably on the orders of Frederick Chiluba, his successor as head of state.

Dr Kaunda's son, Wezi, said the Christmas Day arrest was probably timed to try to avoid publicity. "They obviously thought that journalists would not be working and that lawyers would be difficult to track down," he said.

Wezi Kaunda and his father's housekeeper were the only visitors permitted to see Dr Kaunda at Kamwala holding prison. "The conditions in there are terrible. It is like an infirmary," said Wezi Kaunda, adding that he believed his father was held out of "vindictiveness, to settle old scores".

No charge has been laid against Dr Kaunda, who returned to Zambia last Sunday after an absence of nearly two months. However, his arrest and detention are clearly linked to an unsuccessful coup

attempt carried out by a group of junior army officers on October 28.

Dr Kaunda, who was in South Africa at the time and has denied any connection with the coup attempt, has spent the last two months visiting southern African countries and addressing meetings and groups of businessmen. He has described

of the world's most indebted nations.

My Chiluba's Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD) swept to power in 1991 in a wave of popular support for ending the single-party system, but an increasingly brutal political culture, which has tarnished his image as a democrat, has recently prompted some Western do-

if they took him under the detention laws.

Under the state of emergency regulations, detainees can be held for 28 days without charge or access to lawyers. Since it was imposed after the coup attempt at least 90 people, many of them opposition politicians, have been held.

Up to 100 paramilitary policemen, armed with AK47 assault rifles, surrounded Dr Kaunda's home in Lusaka's Roma suburb before dawn yesterday. His son denied them access without warrants, but after a stand-off lasting nearly three hours Dr Kaunda agreed to go to police headquarters.

His spokesman, Mohabi Lungu, said: "The commander said they just wanted to have an interview. But it is part of a personal vendetta by Chiluba and his cohorts. They will do anything to try to get at the old man."

Dr Kaunda was driven off from his home in a convoy of pick-up trucks manned by armed police. Soon after his arrival at police headquarters, where the detention order was served on him, he was transferred to the prison. A small Christmas morning crowd had gathered outside the building, and as he clambered into the back of a car Dr Kaunda waved a white handkerchief, his political trademark, and asked them to remain calm.

He said: "I have been detained for 28 days. I don't know why. It doesn't make sense."

My father was taken to jail out of vindictiveness to settle old scores. The conditions there are terrible

Mr Chiluba and his Government as "thieves and liars".

But his own record as President of Zambia, from independence from Britain in 1964 until his defeat by Mr Chiluba in the country's first multi-party elections for 27 years, does not bear close scrutiny. He inherited a country with vast reserves of copper and its valuable by-product, cobalt, but by the mid-1970s it had become one

nor governments to suspend aid. This year Dr Kaunda was wounded in the head by a gunshot when police broke up a rally of his United National Independence Party which he believed was an attempt to kill him.

His son said yesterday that he feared his father would be tortured in Lusaka's crowded Kamwala holding prison. He said: "I fear that something very serious will happen



Former President Kaunda, escorted by armed guards, is driven away in a police vehicle to the Lusaka prison

Green ribbons show anger at Mugabe land seizures

Shadow of ruin falls on farmers of Zimbabwe, writes Jan Raath in Beatrice



THERE is unrelenting orderliness here. You would call it obsessive-compulsive if you did not know it was a kind of love.

The rows of chest-high tobacco plants could have been fixed by slide rule. The blue enamel surface of the water pump that feeds them is wiped shiny clean. The land in the game section looks as if they have come back from a grooming at the pet's parlour.

Guy Watson-Smith and the other farmers in the Beatrice district, 43 miles south of Harare, and many of their labourers, wear a small green ribbon in their shirts as a quiet protest against President Mugabe's land takeover. Guy, 48, owns two farms. On Alamein's 2,000 acres, the blue-green, elephant-eared leaf fills the space between horizons. It is one of the biggest one-farm tobacco producers in the country.

Elim, 1,260 acres, is next door. Apart from 100 acres of fragile sand, the land is vlei (swamp) with clay soil incapable of growing any crop known to man, says Guy. Its

coarse, stringy grass can sustain only the giraffe, kudu, impala, eland, zebra, sable, tsessebe and gnu he breeds for game ranchers.

The reason d'être of Elim is water. Beatrice is a high-risk farming area. Rainfall is chronically erratic and neither of the table-flat properties has a river or a catchment.

then another three miles into the fields of Alamein.

Elim is indispensable to Alamein. Guy spent £83,000 installing drip irrigation on 17 acres this year. He went to Israel to study the technology.

There is no ostentatious wealth. The plain homestead was here when they moved in. He drives a Range Rover, but it is nine years old and worked hard. There is an easy, bantering rapport between the boss and his 98 workers. Nothing could be further from the beer-gutted, sjambok-wielding Rhodesian farmer caricature.

On November 28, President Mugabe tossed all this into an abyss of insecurity. Elim is one of the 1,471 commercial

farms gazetted for "compulsory acquisition". No one had come to assess Alamein, Elim or any of the 30-odd farms listed in the district, about a third of the total. Most of them are top producers. "It's as if they were trying to pick the eyes out of the district," he said. "I don't know who did it."

It is the second time politics and race have torn at the Watson-Smiths' roots. In 1983, Guy had to sell the farm on which he was brought up in the Bindura district to the Government. He packed up his family and his 30 workers with their families and moved to Beatrice.

I visited Hanagwe farm in Bindura. It was resettled in 1985 by 57 families of the Fundanvhu co-operative. The homestead and tobacco barns are derelict. There are ten acres of wilting tobacco. The co-op owes Z\$900,000 (£30,000) to the bank, and there is no hope of paying it back. "We are failing," said Stanley Zana, the production manager. "It is all nyokonyoka [chaos] here."

Moi goes on cash spree in search of votes

FROM DAVID ORR IN NAIROBI

MONEY and politics have become bosom friends in Kenya, and with voters preparing to go to the polls on Monday the funds are flowing. Worst offender is the ruling party of President Moi. "They're dishing out money all over the place," said one observer. "They don't know how to do it any other way."

According to sources close to the presidential State House, Kenya African National Union (KANU) parliamentary candidates have been receiving handouts of 1 million Kenyan shillings cash (about £100,000) to oil their campaigns. The money is distributed at election rallies, 50 or 100 shillings at a time. At one rally near Nairobi, a KANU candidate was almost lynched after his cash supply ran low.

On election day itself there is expected to be widespread buying of votes. In poor rural areas, voters can be bribed for the price of a kilo of sugar. In Northern Province, the provincial administration is reported to be doing just that — handing out bags of sugar and other foodstuffs on behalf of the ruling party.

"There's definitely a lot of rigging going on," said one Western diplomat. "Opposition parties are not above such tricks, but it's mostly KANU because they're the ones with access to funds."

There have been reports of KANU officials touring remote areas, buying up voters' cards. The going price is 500 shillings. The areas most affected are those provinces with strong opposition followings. "Every successful KANU politician has an Asian businessman in the background," said Sudhir Vidhyarthi, whose firm Colourprint produces nearly all the opposition and some KANU election posters. "These businessmen want to protect their interests... they know they'll be tolerated as long as they come up with the money."



Guy Watson-Smith with his wife, Victoria, and son, Adam, outside their homestead at Alamein farm, Zimbabwe

Floods blamed for spread of African killer disease

FROM KARIN DAVIES IN NAIROBI

MEDICAL experts spent yesterday collecting specimens from Kenyans and Somalis stricken by an undiagnosed illness that has caused at least 45 people to haemorrhage to death.

The Somali Red Cross Society confirmed last night an

outbreak in southern Somalia of a disease similar to that reported across the border in Kenya. Red Cross officials said 42 people have died in Torotorow, 72 miles south of Mogadishu. All had high fevers, severe stomach cramps and vomited blood.

In Kenya, doctors have confirmed three deaths from the disease, all of which

happened last week at a hospital in the remote town of Garissa. They were trying to verify reports that 171 more people had died in flooded villages in the northeast of the country.

The outbreaks in both countries happened along rivers, the Ewaso Nyiroi in Kenya and the Shabelle in Somalia. Experts speculate that flood-

ing brought on by El Niño that contaminated drinking water and allowed pests that breed in floodwaters to flourish may have caused the disease.

The first batch of specimens gathered in Kenyan villages 200 miles and 350 miles northwest of Nairobi were expected back in the capital late yesterday for testing to-

day. It was unclear when samples from Somalia would arrive.

Twelve possible diseases are being investigated, including yellow fever, dengue, Rift Valley and relapsing fevers. Ebola, which also causes its victims to bleed from the mouth and other orifices, has tentatively been ruled out. (AP)

PLUS EXTRA SAVINGS ON SALE PRICES WITH VOUCHERS FOR 3 DAYS ONLY

PLUS BUY NOW - PAY UP TO 12 MONTHS LATER ON TV, VIDEOS & CD RECORDS IN STORE

Goodmans 28" HOME CINEMA SURROUND SOUND TV
"Lots of appeal - excellent value for money"
WHAT VIDEO & TV MAGAZINE - BEST BUY
• 66cm visible screen size
• Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound
• Fastext
• TV/Video cabinet supplied
• 2 SCART sockets
Model 283DPL was £549.99
Previously £599.99, £649.99 sale £539.99

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET
3 DAYS ONLY SAVE £449.99 £200
EXTRA SAVING ON SALE PRICE

VENTURER
DOLBY SURROUND PRO LOGIC
3 DISC MULTIPLAY CD MINI HI-FI
• Easy set-up facility
• AM/FM digital tuner Model OD2663
was £299.99 sale £229.99

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET
3 DAYS ONLY SAVE £199.99 £100
EXTRA SAVING ON SALE PRICE

VOUCHER OFFER INCLUDES LEXMARK COLOUR PRINTER (normally £279.99)
INCLUDES MICROSOFT WORKS & MONEY SOFTWARE

SIEMENS NIXDORF MULTIMEDIA PC
• Intel 200MHz Pentium processor with MMX™ technology
• 32Mb 3D RAM
• 356Kb cache memory
• 3.2Gb hard disk drive
• 16 speed CD ROM drive
• 16 bit 3D sound card
• 3D graphics accelerator with 2Mb RAM
• 33.6 fax modem
Model XPERT 200MT
In-store £1299.99

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION
VOUCHER SAVE £1249 £170

COMET
OPEN TODAY 10AM-6PM
SATURDAY 27TH 10AM-5PM
For local store details please call 0500 425 425. Visit our web site on www.comet.co.uk

Mexico mourns raid 'martyrs'

Three held over slaughter of 45 peasants in attack on rebel village, writes David Adams

AT LEAST three suspects are being questioned over the slaughter of 45 defenceless Indian peasants in southern Mexico, as surviving villagers held a wake in the memory of their lost relatives. None of the suspects has yet been charged.

In the deserted chapel of Atecal, the tiny rural hamlet where the orgy of killing began on Monday, some villagers who escaped the massacre returned on Christmas Eve for a communal meal to honour the birth of Jesus and to remember their dead. Heaps of bloodied clothes, shoes and the bedding of those who died, covered the church floor, providing a grim contrast to the decorations and a Nativity scene. Bloodstains also marked the paths leading from the church down to a nearby river bank, where some of the victims tried to hide before the cries of their frightened children gave them away.

A special Christmas Eve Mass was held in the nearby village of Polho, where the bloodstained coffins were laid out in the local church. The dead have yet to be identified and the coffins bore simple labels, such as "Adult, female, 35," and "Adult, male, 23". Blood seeped from the smaller coffins of some of the child victims as they were carried down a steep dirt path lined with Tzotzil Indian women and children holding candles in a late-night vigil.

"I have never before assisted at a Christmas Mass with 45 people dead," Oscar Salinas, the priest, said. "These are people of strong spirit who live on the margins of violence. You could say it was a situation of martyrdom."

Mexicans are demanding that the Government should

explain why no effort was made to stop the killing. Roman Catholic Church officials say the Government was alerted to the shooting almost immediately it began. Witnesses said it went on uninterrupted for at least five hours.

The survivors say the attack stemmed from a regional dispute over a local alternative government established by pro-Zapatista villagers. The victims were members of a Tzotzil Indian organisation called Las Abejas, which sought self-government in the Chenalho district of northern Chiapas. The left-wing Zapatistas' strong peasant support represents a direct challenge to the dominance in Chiapas of the PRI, which has governed Mexico for 70 years.

Human rights groups and church leaders are placing much of the blame on the Mexican Government, saying its failure to move firmly and quickly to disarm paramilitary groups and negotiate a solution to the four-year-old conflict had created the conditions that led to the massacre.

Human rights groups claim that the PRI administration in the southern state of Chiapas has secretly armed the paramilitary groups, supposedly in defence against the Zapatistas. The PRI has insisted that it does not condone violence or encouraged any paramilitary brutality.

"The direct responsibility for these bloody acts rests on [President] Ernesto Zedillo ... and the Secretary of the Interior, who for years gave the green light to a counter-insurgency programme presented by the federal army," said Subcommander Marcos, military leader of the Zapatista peasant army that launched an uprising four years ago to demand civil rights for the



Women from Atecal weep for their lost friends and relatives during a wake in nearby Polho. Many of the dead have not yet been identified

"We discovered many of the bodies. We saw some on top of others, dead women clutching their dead children"

Chiapas Indians. Señor Zedillo has bitterly condemned the massacre and Emilio Chuayfett, the Interior Minister, denied the federal Government bore any responsibility, "even by omission".

Catholic leaders said they gave ample warning to the Government that paramilitary violence was brewing. "We have information that paramilitary groups are multiplying," the Church told the Government in a letter in October. "Former soldiers and police are training civilians to fight their brothers, ruling party congressmen are spon-

soring the sale and the trafficking of weapons, acting as protectors and co-ordinators of the various paramilitary groups," the letter said.

Church leaders say they continued to provide the Government with specific warnings in the days leading up to the attack on Atecal. When the shooting began, the bishop's office in San Cristóbal de las Casas said it

received a telephone call alerting them that the village was under attack. Although that information was immediately passed on to state officials, the Government failed to respond.

Survivors of the massacre, in which 21 women and 15 children were killed, have identified the gunmen as members of a paramilitary group with ties to the PRI. After the shooting began,

some villagers were able to escape the gunmen by fleeing down a mountainside.

Augusto Gómez Pérez burst into tears as he told reporters how he and other survivors ventured back to the area on Monday evening after the shooting subsided.

"We discovered many of the bodies. We saw some on top of others, dead women clutching their dead children," he said.

Unable to continue, he mumbled, "so much sadness".

His nephew, Juan Vázquez Luna, 15, lost his parents and his sister in the massacre. He said that he ran, while his father made the mistake of trying to crawl to safety.

□ Volcano erupts: Mexico's giant Popocatepetl volcano spewed black smoke four miles high and belched a pool of lava early yesterday in its strongest explosion since June, volcano experts and media reports said. The smoke and ash could be seen 33 miles away in the capital, Mexico City. (Reuters)

At least 32 die as Pakistan trains collide

By Christopher Thomas
SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

A BLUNDER by a railway worker is believed to have been responsible for a train crash in Pakistan in which at least 32 people died and 100 were injured — the latest in a catastrophic record of train disasters that have claimed more than 2,000 lives in a decade.

The Rohi express was travelling at top speed through a rural station at Rustam Sargana, 15 miles from the eastern Punjab town of Jhang, when it smashed into the front of a stationary train shortly before midnight on Wednesday. Visibility was low because of fog.

The Associated Press of Pakistan reported that the train should have been on parallel tracks and that a guard or a railway employee in charge of points may have made a mistake.

Some of the world's worst railway disasters have been in Pakistan. In 1989 two passenger trains collided, killing 850 people. In March this year 135 people died when a train jumped the tracks and slammed into a sand dune after the brakes failed.

The Pakistan Air Force was called out to cut free passengers trapped in the carriages of both trains in the latest crash. Villagers carried away the dead and injured before emergency services arrived. Many died from their wounds during the journey to hospital over bumpy country roads. The death toll is expected to rise because of severe injuries sustained by many passengers. Four were described last night as critical.

The train was on its way to Rawalpindi and was not scheduled to stop at the station, where a local train travelling from Multan was about to pull away from the platform when the express smashed into it.

IT'S WORTH LIVING IN LONDON SELFRIDGES

Starts Sat Sunday 27 December. Up to 50% off fashion and homeware. Call Freephone 0800 195 400 for details. Sat 27 Sat 28 Sun 29 Dec 12pm-6pm

مكتبة النخيل

The Jackal plots to beat life of prison boredom

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

CARLOS the Jackal will today be questioned over a 1982 terrorist attack in the first of a long line of judicial rendezvous that will represent his only break from the monotony of prison.

After his life sentence in Paris on Tuesday for murder, the media-loving terrorist is likely to multiply legal procedures in the hope of winning public exposure and relief from boredom. His lawyers say he will appeal against his conviction for shooting dead two French secret service agents and their informer in 1975.

Illich Ramirez Sanchez, the wealthy Venezuelan Marxist who became known as Carlos, has little hope of overturning the verdict reached by the French jury.

But at least he will be able to demand extra visits from his battalion of lawyers, one of whom, a former model, was found sitting on his knee in a prison interview room last year.

Carlos will no doubt be pleased that his encounters with the man he appears to consider as his sparring partner, the French anti-terrorist judge Jean-Louis Bruguière, begin today.

Judge Bruguière wants to interrogate Carlos over the 1982 bombing of the Parisian offices of the newspaper, *al Watan al Arabi*, which left one person dead. Carlos has been charged in connection with the incident, one of five terrorist acts for which he has been placed under formal investigation.

The others are the 1974 grenade attack on a Paris chemist, which killed two people; the bombing in 1982 of

a train, killing five; the explosion in a Marseilles train station, which left two dead in 1983; and the explosion on the Paris to Marseilles high-speed train, which caused five deaths, also in 1983.

The terrorist's performance at this week's court case suggests he will press for all five procedures to end in public trials, even if that means repeated life sentences for him.

At his first public outing since his capture in Sudan in 1994, the self-styled "militant communist revolutionary" multiplied eccentricities in a successful attempt to seize centre stage.

On the final day he confused observers with a speech of almost four hours in often incomprehensible French that did little to shed light on the 1975 killings. "I have never denied the facts. I have neither confirmed nor denied them. I say, 'I don't co-operate'."

His actions, he said, should be placed in the context of a "world war between Zionism and the Earth's damned, the slaves. This is a fight to the death that humanity is going to win. If not there will be total alienation, the McDonaldisation of the human race."

Beyond the struggle, however, Carlos again let other preoccupations filter through his monologue, notably his own image. Defining himself as a man "not of iron, but of sentiment", he said: "A mercenary kills for money... but we have killed for an ideology, for a cause, the Palestinian cause."

To prove the point, he greeted the verdict with a raised fist, shouting: "Long live the revolution."



Cubans packing Havana's cathedral to celebrate Christmas for the first time in 28 years. Many have only a vague idea of what it is about

Cuba learns how to enjoy Christmas

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

THOUSANDS of Roman Catholic worshippers packed Havana's cathedral yesterday to give thanks for their first Christmas holiday in nearly three decades.

The celebrations came after a surprise decision last week by President Castro to restore the traditional holiday as what he called a one-time exception to honour next month's historic visit by the Pope. For the first time since 1969, Cubans did not have to get up on Christmas morning and prepare for work or school.

Many Cubans were celebrating Christmas for the first time and have only a vague idea of what it is all about. Although it was never completely outlawed, practising any religious faith in Cuba was discouraged by the Communist authorities after Se-

nor Castro was swept to power in the 1959 revolution. Cuba officially declared itself an atheist nation in 1962, and the Christmas holiday was discarded in 1969 to boost the sugar harvest.

Until recently having a Christmas tree was looked upon as an insult to the revolution. But these days Cuban officials can no longer find any contradiction between Christmas and the revolution. Christmas began making a comeback after the Government began lifting restrictions on religious worship in 1992. For the first time this year Christmas trees and other holiday items went on sale in government shops.

Government pork was also being offered in state-run markets at subsidised prices. No feast is complete in Cuba without roast pork, and many families in Havana have taken to smuggling pigs into their flats and fattening them

for months in advance of important birthdays and holidays.

Traditional Christmas decorations remain in short supply and are too expensive for most people, who earn state salaries of no more than £10 a month. During years of economic hardship Cubans have become experts in cannibalising all sorts of odds and ends and fashioning them into makeshift objects of worth. Christmas is no different, as families convert potted plants into substitute Christmas trees, adorning them with home-made decorations.

□ Papal message: In a special Christmas message to the Cuban people last weekend, the Pope welcomed the return of the religious holiday. However, in an apparent sign of his readiness to challenge Cuba's Communist authorities, he made a veiled appeal for the Christmas holiday to be restored permanently.



Castro meets Santa Claus: How the issue was seen by cartoonist Kal in the Baltimore Sun newspaper

WORLD SUMMARY

Four more may have avian flu

Hong Kong: Four more people were feared to have avian flu, which has killed at least three people here and forced the government to ban chickens from China.

A government statement said the latest possible victims included a woman, 25, who was in a critical condition. Two young boys were also in hospital, and a year-old boy has been discharged after he recovered. Blood tests on 732 chickens have tested negative for the virus. (Reuters)

Director dies

Milan: Giorgio Strehler, 76, one of Italy's best-known theatre directors and Shakespearians, died of a heart attack in Switzerland. In 1947 he founded Milan's Piccolo Theatre, where he worked for half a century. (Reuters)

Spacemen paid

Moscow: Mir cosmonauts were finally paid in full. Their money was withheld during an inquiry into a collision involving the space station. Commander Vasily Tsibliyev and engineer Aleksandr Lazutkin returned in August. (AP)

Churches stoned

Jakarta: A 300-strong mob using sticks and stones destroyed two houses used as Christian churches in a village 12 miles west of Indonesia's capital. The country is mainly Islamic. Many of the worshippers were ethnic Chinese. (AP)

Wrong target

Ankara: Eight people, including two civilians, were hurt when a missile struck a ship used to launch target balloons during a Black Sea training exercise for Turkish cadets. One of those injured was in a serious condition. (Reuters)

Striking escape

Brussels: Vincent Buret, 25, an armed robber, has broken out of jail for the fourth time, by climbing down from his high-security cell on the ninth floor of Belgium's largest prison. He escaped as guards were on a pay strike. (Reuters)

Mayor scraps Tiber tunnel

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

A GRANDIOSE plan to build a fast motor underground along the Tiber next to the Castel Sant'Angelo by 2000 has been scrapped by the Mayor of Rome, Francesco Rutelli, after archaeologists said the project could undermine the foundations of the fortress.

Signor Rutelli is responsible for celebrations to mark the advent of the Christian millennium. He said it was not feasible to complete the tunnel before December 1999, the deadline for completion of infrastructure projects for use by millions of pilgrims.

The underground project had been criticised by cultural heritage representatives who want more tests to be carried out to determine the possible impact on Hadrian's Mausoleum. Environmental pressure groups also opposed the proposal on the ground that Castel Sant'Angelo might be undermined by excavations.

It is the second time the city fathers have had to retreat on pledges to create jobs through public works schemes. More than 6 billion lire (£2.2 million) was spent on preparing for the tunnel.

The Vatican backs the plan since it could ease traffic around St Peter's Square.

German 'suicide bomber' accused

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI police have charged a German convert to Islam with terrorism, after he allegedly became the first non-Arab to volunteer to become a suicide bomber.

Stephen Joseph Smirak, 26, a German citizen, was to have made the mission on behalf of the Iranian-backed militant Muslim movement, Hezbollah, based in Lebanon.

He appeared in a Tel Aviv court yesterday "charged with helping an enemy in war with Israel", passing on information to Hezbollah which could have harmed the security of the Jewish state, and membership of a terrorist organisation. The two-hour hearing was closed to reporters.

Afterwards Herr Smirak's lawyer denied that his client had pleaded guilty to the charges. He said that this would be determined only when proceedings resume on January 4. If convicted, Herr Smirak could face life imprisonment.

The charge sheet says Herr Smirak converted to Islam in 1994 and two years later made contact with Hezbollah. Police allege that Herr Smirak told them that, if released, he would resume working towards his suicide-bomb goal.

He allegedly underwent explosives training in a Hezbollah camp in Lebanon before arriving in Israel on November 28. He was sent to

videotape crowded places in Tel Aviv and Haifa and was due to travel on to Turkey, where he was to have met his Hezbollah operators.

In Turkey, he was to have received his final orders - including instructions about how to prepare an explosive device and the intended location of a terrorist strike. But he never reached the second stage of his operation. He was arrested by Israeli intelligence agents, after his arrival at Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion airport.

In the three weeks since his arrest, he has been interrogated but details of his confessions were kept secret. A restraining order on publication of details about the case was only partially lifted on Wednesday.

Police said Herr Smirak had a history of criminal activity, including drugs and robbery, and had served time behind bars in Germany. He reportedly exchanged his passport in Europe to hide any trace of his stay in Lebanon before arriving in Israel.

Israeli intelligence has claimed Hezbollah has been attempting to enlist Europeans for terrorist strikes. In a statement issued in Lebanon last night, Hezbollah leaders denied they had recruited Herr Smirak to plan a suicide attack and claimed the story had been made up by Israeli intelligence agents.

New York murder rate still in decline

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK is on course to register its lowest murder rate in 30 years. With less than a week to go before the official annual tally is compiled, police have recorded only 746 homicides, a 22 per cent decrease from last year, when 961 people were killed.

However, heartening as the figures are, the city's declining murder rate still needs to be kept in perspective. More people have been killed here this year than in Britain, where 680 murders have been recorded. Credit for the fall in homicides is being given to Rudolph Giuliani, the city's Mayor, as well as to Howard Safer, the Police Commissioner.

Their "zero-tolerance" police policy has ensured that New York is much safer to live in than five years ago. In 1992, before Mr Giuliani took office, murders reached a record peak of 2,262. Over the succeeding years, the rate dropped annually.

Although there were fewer murders in 1997, it did record more than its fair share of high-profile homicides. They included a string of Central Park killings and the death of Malcolm X's widow, who was set alight by her grandson.

Russia backs down in spying row

FROM RICHARD BRESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA yesterday backed away from an embarrassing and potentially damaging spy row with Washington, when an American accused of espionage was allowed to leave the country in an alleged gesture of seasonal goodwill.

Richard Bliss, 29, an electronics engineer from California, was expected to be home for dinner in San Diego last night, exactly a month after he was arrested by Russian counter-intelligence officers in the southern city of Rostov-

on-Don. The Federal Security Service (FSB), the successor to the KGB, said that he was being allowed home as a humanitarian act.

If prosecutors require his presence he has been ordered to return to Russia by January 10, when he could stand trial on espionage charges and face up to 20 years in prison.

However, the move was widely regarded by both Russian and American officials as a face-saving climbdown by Moscow, after over-zealous counter-intelligence officers wrongly detained Mr Bliss, who was found using satellite

receivers in a sensitive area of Rostov.

It transpired that Mr Bliss, who works for the Qualcomm Corporation of California, was simply a technician carrying out installation work for a new cellular communications system in the city. "Had he been a real spy, nobody would have sent him to America for Christmas," said Valeri Petryayev, the lawyer defending Mr Bliss, who doubted that the case would get to court.

Although such incidents do arise occasionally in Russia, particularly in provisional ar-

reas where local counter-intelligence officers often treat foreigners with Soviet-style suspicion, this particular case deteriorated into the worst of its kind since the end of the Cold War six years ago.

The arrest sparked an angry response from Washington and the case was taken up by Al Gore, the American Vice-President, and a number of congressmen, who threatened to take retaliatory action against Russia unless Mr Bliss was freed. His return home was regarded by the United States as the end of the affair.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

MEMORIES OF 1997 IN PICTURES

THE SUNDAY TIMES / IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

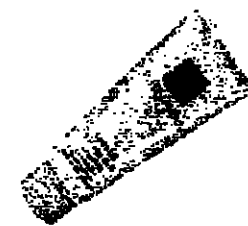


Wake up your skin

Now is the time to revive your tired and jaded skin. Treatments include everything from a Fango Borghese green mud mask to a Decleor instant beauty booster. But the infallible answer could be an early night.

SIX OF THE BEST

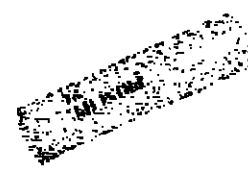
Partied out and wondering how you dare show your face on New Year's Eve? Here are six of the best products to revive sallow skins.



ESTÉE LAUDER QUICK LIFT 4-MIN MASK
This was quick to apply. It had a fresh smell and dried quickly, leaving the skin refreshed, clean and taut. 7/10
£18.50, at major department stores.



FANGO BORGHESSE ACTIVE MUD
This huge pot of green mud was fantastic. It was thick and cool to apply, making the skin tingle. Washed off, it left my skin smooth and spot-free. 10/10
At selected department stores, £29.



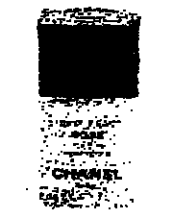
SHU UEMURA PRINCIPE 21
Cool and soothing to apply, it revived my partied-out skin so much that after one heavy evening I was told by several people how well I looked. 9/10
Available at Fenwick, New Bond Street W1, £50.



SHISEIDO VITAL PERFECTION MASK
Very quick to use (took only three minutes). Skin was taut and shiny afterwards. Created a great surface for foundation. 7/10
At selected department stores, £26.50.



DECLÉOR INSTANT BEAUTY BOOSTER
Clinical packaging. Whitish gel goes on easily. Smells delicious. My skin may possibly be too far gone for help but for me it was infallible. 6/10
At selected department stores, £21.50.



CHANEL TEINT EXACT ROSE
Does cover blemishes, but with a matt-like finish. It felt heavy but was good for total coverage for dull skin. 5/10
Available at leading department stores, £24

Compiled by
DEBORAH BRETT

HOT TIP
Nails. £3.99, published by Kyle Cathie. Fly the flag, go girly with daisies or do the polka with dots. There are 28 nail designs in this small, compact and beautifully photographed book that will help you to paint your claws to match your mood.

Objects of desire

■ Blow-up chair, £55, from Oliver Bonas, 10 Kensington Church Street W8 (0171-368 0035). Despite this chair coming with a foot pump, it takes a while to fully inflate. Once blown up, however, it is surprisingly comfortable and rather bouncy, and looks extremely cool.

■ Metallic coil bracelets, £14 per pack of about 20. Available in gold, white silver and silver from Agatha, 4 South Molton Street W1. Mail Order: 0171-495 2779. Having winged their way over from Paris, these lightweight, almost spring-coil-like, metal bracelets are adorning every fashion editor's arm. Worn with simple suits, they will add to the minimalist look, as well as giving an ethnic touch to the Far Eastern fabrics around at the moment. Beware: put them on only three at a time or they "ping" apart and are very difficult to push back together again.

Reflections on Morticia Addams

Oh, no! It is the Nightmare after Christmas. You wake to the frosty sunlight pouring through the window, and the sound of someone pounding on the door. After a moment, you realise that the pounding is actually inside your head. Your eyeballs have shrivelled in their sockets like a couple of sultanas in a nutshell. You feel like someone who was horribly put to death a couple of thousand years ago. Rising from your bed like a mummy emerging from its sarcophagus, you judder over to the mirror and take a look. It cracks from side to side. Well, no, all right, it doesn't. But still, the ruby-eyed reflection gazing back at you might be Morticia Addams's elder sister after a particularly heavy night on the beetle juice. It is a grim sight, and what makes it all the worse is that tonight is the party of the year, to which he is definitely coming. It has to be said that in your present condition, even Frankenstein's Monster might

If you look, and feel, like someone who was put to death a couple of thousand years ago, read on...

take one look and find an excuse to be elsewhere. So, what are you going to do about it? If you are aged between 18 and 24, you can stop worrying. Sausage, bacon, eggs, mushrooms, dripping toast and a glass of champagne just before you go out will probably see you blooming this evening as prettily as ever. The rest of you had better stay behind and pay attention. What you do now by way of a pick-me-up will depend largely on how much time you have at your disposal. Your poor old liver might have benefited from Zand's Milk Thistle dietary supplement, and your immune system from a dose of Kombucha Mushroom Elixir. If only you had started taking them, as urged by *Vogue*, when the party season started. For now, though, it is emergency mea-

sures only. You might start with a purifying mud face pack. La Prairie does a Cellular Purifying Clay mask which reeks punitively of something antiseptic and tingles when you put it on. You emerge shrimp pink, with every pore

CUTTING EDGE

JANE SHILLING

tightened to its limit. The Fango Borghese mask shown here is a gentler experience but still perfectly effective. If you are expecting visitors and don't want to have to greet them looking like the Creature from the Crypt, a serum is usually a

mask. A serum is usually a clear liquid, often packaged in quasi-medical fashion with a little glass dropper. You apply a tiny amount to a clean skin for a quick lift. Feeling a trifle jaded a couple of weeks ago, I found myself at the Lancôme counter, being lectured on the magical properties of the Oligo-Major anti-fatigue stimulating serum. "A lot of my ladies use it when they have been in hospital," said the enamelled Ancient Mariner behind the till. Good grief! I was obviously looking even worse than I had thought. Morale reduced to the size of a pea, I handed over my credit card and went home with a little bottle of stuff that smells like Vim, but seems to be working quite well. But what if there is not even time for that? It is half an hour before the crucial date, and

you are convinced that your only option is a vow of perpetual chastity and a lifetime spent doing good works with the Little Sisters of the Irredeemably Plain. Just before you book a fitting for the habit, you might try one of the balms produced by sympathetic cosmetics companies for hopeless cases such as yours.

Decleor's Instant de Beauté promises to "eliminate tiredness and restore a radiant glow to the face". It smells divine, but I fear that exhaustion is too indelibly scrawled over my visage for it to respond. Clarins Beauty Flash Balm smells less nice but seems to work better. In either case, the effort of slapping it on will at least get the circulation going. Of course, the one really infallible pick-me-up is a nice early night. Next morning you will look ravishing. The only thing is, no one will be awake to see you. They will all still be sleeping off the excesses of the night before.

HOBB'S
SALE
NOW ON
Reductions up to 50%
For nearest branch phone 0171 586 5550.

talk
Just Talk
Motorola mr201

Orange Just Talk means no written contract or monthly bills. £149.99 r.r.p. gets you a Just Talk Motorola mr201 phone, connection to Orange and 15 minutes of free calls. Because there are no ties, it's the perfect Christmas gift.

- No credit check needed.
- Top up cards available in 15, 60 or 200 minutes from Orange stockists and high street retailers nationwide.
- Once you've bought talktime you can receive calls for 6 months, for no additional charge.
- Orange digital network covers 95% of the UK population and is still growing, with a further £800m being invested.

No monthly bill.
No commitment.

justtalk with calls from just 29p per minute.

For more information call Orange direct on 0800 80 10 80 or visit www.orange.co.uk

مكتبة النور

The cook, the wife and the party girl's secrets for surviving the season

Jason Cowley discovers ways to avoid the dreaded festive fatigue and ensure that the fun keeps running into new year

Mick Nosh is a bon vivant, restaurateur and a regular on the London party circuit. Together with his partner, Nick — the self-styled Nosh Brothers — he has written several books on food and entertaining.

"How does anyone keep going during the party season? Luck, stamina and good planning... The last holds the key for me: the Nosh Brothers' life is a punishing round of socialising — professional and personal. We run an outside catering business, write books, do some television and as much lunching and partying as we can. In the run-up to Christmas, if you want to see everyone — go to the parties — events have to be organised with military precision.

"This year I'm in Canberra for Christmas, staying with my parents, who love their food. My mother is German-born, so we have goose for Christmas Day; my father loves his wines. I plan to drink good, subtle wine and eat beef on the bone every day. My younger son, who is 19, went to Canberra a week before me and has already put on half a stone.

"To sustain myself during the slow run-up to the new year — and if I get bored in Canberra — I'll move on to Sydney for the beaches, restaurants and party scene. It's blisteringly hot there at the moment, as those rampaging bush fires show. And then it's on to Bali for new year, where I'll meet up with friends.

"I've never much enjoyed new year in London — everyone usually runs out of steam after Christmas and there's a fake frivolity about much of the scene. I prefer Amsterdam, where the streets are really vibrant, full of exploding fireworks and light, and where there is usually a hint of danger and chaos. On the Tropics, where there are bars as good as you find in Barcelona and, if you want, you can also enjoy the peace and tranquillity of deserted beaches."

He adds: "Of course, burnout is a constant worry. The other day, Nick had a lunch with a few old friends at the Oxo Tower restaurant on the South Bank, at which they each had to drink three bottles of wine. Then they headed for the Groucho for more of the same. The Groucho is our oasis; it's where we can hooliganise with our friends without being in the public gaze. But you must learn to pace yourself over Christmas, not do too much too soon.

"Which is easier said than done, for we are big guys with big appetites. Our white coats are a licence to cause mayhem, and this is the time of year

when the real mayhem takes place."

SALLY JANE ELLIS, 38, a housewife and qualified riding instructor, says: "Every year Christmas seems to be that much more hectic and panicky." She lives in Huntingfield, Suffolk, with her husband, Tim, and their two young children, Gemma, nine, and Tristan, three. Before moving to Suffolk she ran her own equestrian centre with 40 horses in Essex.

"You have to start earlier and earlier if you want to get everything done, especially if you are entertaining, as I have been. Those few days between Christmas Day and the new year can be terribly fraught for a busy housewife. I sometimes wonder how I keep going.

"I always do my Christmas shopping in short bursts, less exhausting than trying to do it all at once at the last minute, and try to think of a theme every year. It stops me panicking. For example, this year all the men in the family got mini-torches and I bought dishes for my three sisters and sister-in-law. As for food shopping,



Aliza Reger: spends Boxing Day in bed

the nearest supermarket is 70 miles away, so making last-minute dashes is something of an impossibility.

"I find that setting myself deadlines helps to keep on top of things. For example, I make the Christmas cake and pudding in November, and have a rule that cards have to be written and sent by December 1, although a few to business associates are always left until the last minute.

"On Christmas Day last year, I got up at 5am to muck out our five horses, which also needed to be taken out for exercise later in the day.

"I put the turkey in to cook at that time on Christmas morning, although I did contemplate putting it in the oven the night before so it could cook through the night. My parents, mother-in-law, younger sister, Kat, and her boyfriend and child spent Christmas Day with us. Kat is a dairy farmer so she is also extremely busy around the Christmas period.

"The past week has been absolutely manic. I have been going to bed at 1.30am and getting up at 5.30 — even though I have a considerable amount of help at home. We have two girls to help us with the horses. We also have Jenny, who helps with the cleaning, and Shirley, who helps with the ironing. However, we do a great deal of entertaining and partying, so there is always so much to do.

Sally Jane believes: "The most important thing is just to keep going. The new year celebrations always seem slightly less organised than those for Christmas, perhaps because by the time New Year's Eve arrives everyone is exhausted. We will be spending New Year's Eve at home, enjoying our new indoor swimming pool, but I've accepted that I won't get a real opportunity to relax until February when the whole family is going on a skiing holiday.

ALIZA REGER, 32, business executive and party girl, says already she has had a "typically frantic" season: "I've been going to two or three events a night, sometimes more. Then there are all the professional social functions, the lunches, newspaper and magazine parties, wine and canapè brunches. To survive, it's a case of burning the candle at both ends. Except that I've learnt not to drink; or at least

not to drink too much. I'm a tiny person, seven-and-a-half stone and not much more than 5ft 2in. I feel dizzy after a couple of glasses and suffer dreadful hangovers. A friend once recommended that I take Resolve, but that made me feel sicker than the alcohol. So now I limit myself to one, perhaps two drinks per party. That's one way to keep going.

"The other is to spend Boxing Day in bed, doing nothing. Most years I do Christmas dinner at home for about 20 people, friends and family. Which means getting up early, despite the excesses of the night before, rolling up my sleeves, putting on the rubber gloves and working, working, working. The situation is complicated by the fact that my birthday, December 27, falls between Boxing Day and the new year. So just when you think it's safe to rest, you have to start all over again. I'm not one of those people who ignores birthdays: I hope to be celebrating mine when I am 90.

"This year I'm celebrating it in Mauritius with my husband, Andrew, and our daughter, Annoushka, and many friends. Nothing has been planned, although some of our friends arrived early to suss out what is going on. The big hotel parties don't really appeal to me, 200 or 300 anonymous people meeting in a spirit of fake bonhomie. What I'm looking for is something looser, more creatively relaxed; let's call it spontaneous combustion.

"In January I start a new job, as chief executive of Janet Reger. But, despite the increased responsibility, this won't stop me partying; nothing could do that."



Celebrity cooks Mick and Nick Nosh see luck, stamina and good planning as the key. Says Mick, left: "You must pace yourself over Christmas — easier said than done"

B&Q SALE

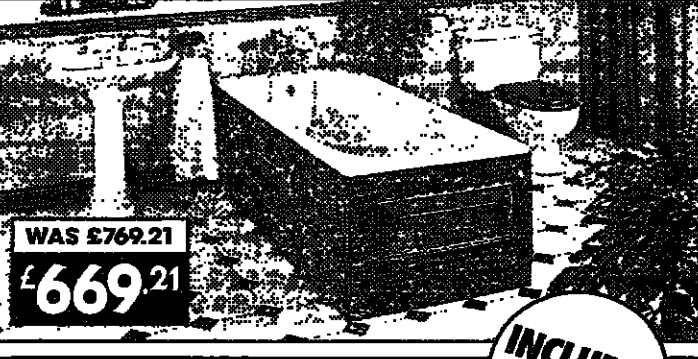
"With these great reductions, now's the time to buy a bathroom suite from B&Q."



CHARLOTTE ELVIN
Bathroom Sales Administrator
B&Q SPONDON

£100 OFF

The Victorian Bathroom Suite (Special Order) Suite comprises white bath with Antique Pine effect front panel (end panel extra), 2 tap hole basin and pedestal, close-coupled toilet pan, cistern and fitting, toilet seat and gold effect bath and shower mixer taps (as shown), including wastes.



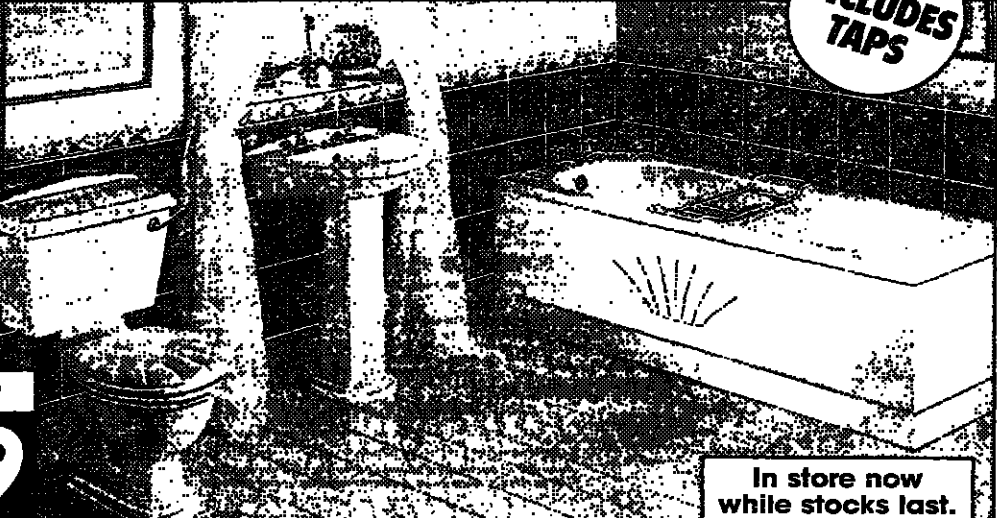
WAS £769.21
£669.21

INCLUDES TAPS

£60 OFF

The Sheldon Bathroom Suite Suite comprises white acrylic bath with front panel (end panel extra), 2 tap hole basin and pedestal, close-coupled toilet pan, cistern and fitting, white toilet seat and gold effect bath and basin taps including wastes.

WAS \$299
£239



In store now while stocks last.

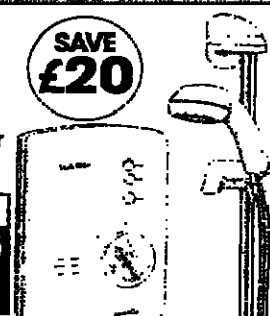
Gainsborough Energy 2000X Electric Shower 9.5kW.

WAS £149.99
£89.99



Gainsborough Style 400X Electric Shower 8.5kW.

WAS \$99.99
£79.99

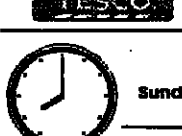


Ashdown Full Depth Vanity Unit 600mm. Available in white, mahogany, antique pine or limed oak effects. (Excludes taps, waste fittings and basin.)

WAS \$89.99
£59.99 each



EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q
Does not apply in B&Q Warehouse or B&Q Depots.



OPENING HOURS
Monday-Saturday: Most stores 8am-6pm.
Sunday: Most stores 10am-4pm (where permitted).
Scotland 9am-5pm & Northern Ireland 1pm-5pm.

Boxing Day: Fri 26th Dec 10am-5pm.
Sat 27th Dec to Tue 29th Dec: Normal Opening Hours.
Certain store hours may vary, please phone your nearest store to confirm.
BRITAIN'S BIGGEST D.I.Y. CHAIN - FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0181 466 4166
Internet - <http://www.diy.co.uk>

Offers may vary at B&Q Warehouses and B&Q Depots. Refer to Price Promise statement available in store. Ask us for details of these offers. Sheldon and Victorian suites comprise items as stated. End panels for baths available at extra cost. Victorian bathroom suite may not be on display but can be ordered. Sheldon suite in store to take away while stocks last. Sizes shown are approximate. Offers subject to availability, while stocks last, please phone to check before travelling.

B&Q

YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!



Ever more hectic: Sally Jane Ellis, with Tristan, three

Everyman's court jesters for our age

John Lloyd speaks up for the class acts of the streets

In the long covered walkway which leads from Dundee's Discovery Point Leisure Centre to the town's main streets, a busker was giving the Christmas shoppers their favourites: *A Scottish Soldier*, *Will Ye Go, Lassie?* and *So This Is Christmas*.

The sentimental ones are the best, he explains, in a gap between *Flower of Scotland* and *Mr Tambourine Man*, the sentimental ones and the Scottish ones, and if the two are united (as they often are), best of all. A good two or three hours, after which the cold in the draughty hallway drives him into the pub for a break, might net him £20.

Each to their taste. The buskers who work the popular slot at the bottom of the down escalator to the Victoria Line at Victoria Station camp it up more. One wears a catsuit and plays trad jazz on a clarinet. A merry Nigerian bangs on the bongos with a backing track on a tape machine, keeping up a line of comic patter with the endless stream of humanity which clanks past. A new act appeared the other day: a striking young woman with wild hair, who sang torch songs unaccompanied, with energy and talent.

They are there on sufferance. The Dundee busker could be moved on under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act of 1982 if he were deemed to be causing an obstruction. The acts at the foot of the Victoria Line escalator are covered by London Transport bylaw 22, which prohibits "soliciting for a reward" or "playing a musical instrument to the annoyance of others". In practice, they can work unless someone complains.

Labour, when soliciting for votes, turned a cold eye on these and other street activities and rumoured about tougher laws but nothing has been done and probably nothing will. For the streets appear to be winning this small but important struggle and in so doing, the people of the streets are making a modest contribution to restructuring the welfare state.

The Scroogeish spirit of the Victorian-era laws which defined buskers' presence on public thoroughfares as mere "obstruction", is being challenged. A major Metro — in Tyne and Wear — has for the past two years licensed buskers to perform in its 46 stations, and has found the response encouraging. The private sector has done more. For a decade, the company which owns the piazza in Covent Garden, Guardian Properties, has licensed street performers — it dislikes the term buskers who are indeed in a different league — to perform in an outdoor pitch at the back of St Paul's Church, inside the covered arcade in the centre of the Garden. The performers are licensed in an audition before the piazza's management.

One star has shot out of Covent Garden into the big time. The comedian Eddie Izzard did a comedy sword-fighting act for years in the Garden. He organised his fellow street performers into an association with a constitution, to bargain with Guardian and to limit entry in what

can be an overcrowded profession.

Paddy Bramwells runs the association now; he does the *Famos (sic)* Bramwells comedy magic turn, which he defines as in the British tradition of street performing minimalism. There are only two tricks in his act: everything is in the comic build-up. The great Tommy Cooper is the epitome of this style.

The Garden is the best organised, but Mr Bramwells says Brighton, Bath, York and Glasgow are all friendly to performers. The space at the foot of Edinburgh's Mound, next to the National Gallery of Scotland is, during the Festival, a rich pickings for those who can withstand the undisciplined (but unharmed) free-for-all. Abroad, Boston, San Francisco and Sydney all have their street performing spaces — as does the Pompidou Centre in Paris, though that says Mr Bramwells is a mafia which an outsider dares to enter at his peril.

Most importantly, Mr Bramwells says that he and many of his comrades do not want to leave the streets — on which veterans, like the famed "Butterfly Man" from San Francisco, who does comic-aggressive repartee, spend decades.

Mr Bramwells has a home, a family and an accountant. The man singing *Flower of Scotland* on the windy walkway, or the woman giving *It Had To Be You* all she has on the escalator, are likely to have an ambiguous relationship with the police and a non-existent one with the Inland Revenue.

But the cautious nibbling at the edges of the street performers' world by State and commerce should continue and be encouraged; for it is here, in this semi-bohemian, semi-dropout world, that an increasing number of citizens, especially the young, will find at least a temporary home. It cannot be banned in a free society; nor should it be. The musicians and jugglers and comedians who ask for our attention or our sympathy are engaging us in small civic acts, jerking us out of the driven solipsism which urban transport encourages.

They divert, amuse, touch. They provide some antidote to the relentless ambience of themed Muzak; I was glad to hear the response encouraging. The private sector has done more. For a decade, the company which owns the piazza in Covent Garden, Guardian Properties, has licensed street performers — it dislikes the term buskers who are indeed in a different league — to perform in an outdoor pitch at the back of St Paul's Church, inside the covered arcade in the centre of the Garden. The performers are licensed in an audition before the piazza's management.

One star has shot out of Covent Garden into the big time. The comedian Eddie Izzard did a comedy sword-fighting act for years in the Garden. He organised his fellow street performers into an association with a constitution, to bargain with Guardian and to limit entry in what

The men and women of street entertainment could become Everyman's court jesters for our age. We will need more such obstructions in the new year.

The author is associate editor of the New Statesman.



Parables of lost innocence

A church high in the Andes stands as a symbol to faith under threat

The ancient Bolivian fort town of Curahuara de Carangas has a fine old church, and my friend Peter had an artist friend, Roberto, who was restoring the frescoes and painted ceiling. We had heard he was accommodated in a roadworkers' camp, but there were no telephones and we were many miles away. All we could do was search for him.

So it was last summer that we took the evening coach from La Paz to the truck-stop of Patatamaya, from where we would have to beg a ride through the night in a lorry. Hunched over a meal of coca tea, stale bread and chicken-claw soup, we found an elderly driver who, for two dollars, would drop us where the road passes closest to Curahuara. The rest we would walk.

In a 70-mile drive we passed no other traffic. From time to time our driver would reach into the dashboard and pull out a white plastic bottle, from which he would take a swig. This was 97 per cent proof Bolivian drinking-alcohol.

The road being straight, I felt unconcerned — until he started disengaging his engine on the downhill slopes. These were long and steep. We would freewheel, gathering speed. As the enormous load we were carrying swayed behind us, the cab would shake. When the headlights picked out an upturn in the road, I would sigh inwardly with relief.

"Son Ingleses!" he inquired, guessing our nationality. "Diana, La Limpia, no?" He thought she had been "cleaned up" by the Royal Family.

Around midnight the lorry driver pulled over to the hard shoulder. "Curahuara," he said, indicating a junction. He now planned to sleep a little. We climbed down, Peter grabbing his rucksack and I my rolled-up sleeping bag. We walked into the night, toward the soft Tilley-light of a corrugated iron hut some way off the road.

A few roadworkers there knew nothing of Roberto. Curahuara was ten minutes down the road, they said. There was no moon. The freeze of peaks around the horizon was black. But arched above us were many millions of stars, and the whole plain was bathed in pale, ethereal light. The road stretched into nothingness: no sign of Curahuara at all.

And it was unbelievably cold. At 1,300ft the temperature was far below

zero. The inside of my nose froze, our faces ached, and I began to lose feeling in one hand. So I plunged the arm into the core of my rolled bag, wearing it like a monstrous glove.

We marched in profound silence. Passing over a bridge we missed the noise of water, but the river had nobody passed. Our progress seemed somehow unreal, as though we were trapped within a time-loop, for though the silvery earth passed beneath our stride, the black shapes of the hills to either hand — more distant than they seemed — never changed or moved.

Then, all at once, dark, angular shapes arose to each side. We stared. These were the rooflines of huts and houses. We were right in the middle of town! In the silence, Curahuara had ambushed us, ghostly and unlit. They stop the generator at nine.

One light glimmered from a window, and we made for it. Three South American Indians were slumped at a table with their beers and paraffin lamp. The barmaid knew nothing of Roberto but took pity on us. We could have a room for 50 cents. "You can share the bed," she said, lighting a candle and dumping a pile of blankets by the door. Head to toe, toe to head, we just fitted.

Before first light I awoke and ventured out to pee in the yard. The planets almost seemed to flare. The stars burned a dazzling gold and white. The cold cut the lungs and windpipe. 4am on the *altiplano* is a sharp, breathless, enchanted, lonely time. "You never enjoy the world aright," wrote Thomas Traherne, "till the sea itself floweth in your veins, till you are clothed with the heavens, and crowned with the stars, and perceive yourself to be the sole heir of the whole world."

Sunrise brought blinding light flooding through the iron frame of our broken window and the sound of a cornet playing reveille, as the cornets began marching in the fort. Curahuara's one bus started revving

its engine in the square, three hours before it was due to leave.

We found the mayor, Roberto had been away from Curahuara for some weeks, he thought — but would we like to see the paintings? He hoped these ancient frescoes of the *altiplano* would soon bring tourists to his struggling town. The mayor mounted an old bike and pedalled off to find the church caretaker. She returned with a bundle of enormous keys.

The church is huge and strangely dumpy: imagine something the size of a substantial urban parish church, with mud walls 4ft thick, and roofed in straw. It was completed in the 17th century. Within, almost every square yard of wall and ceiling is covered in wall-painting of the most vivid sort. The frescoes, completed in 1771, were mostly executed by South American Indian and Mestizo converts, after the manner of the period.

The effect was stunning. You can recognise both the style and the themes of 18th-century Catholic art; but here was an enthusiasm, and a naivety, that contrasted with the languor, the lushness — almost decadence — of European religious painting. It was Grandra Moses meets Gian Lorenzo Bernini. Leaping at the viewer with freshness and wonder was a depiction of their pastor's miraculous vision of angels, and Mary (This is a true painting of Our Lady of the Snows, Special Defender of Raio's).

There were pictures of the Flood, and the Miracles, Gethsemane, the Massacre of the Innocents, and Heaven and Hell. All had a childlike quality — as though the scales had just fallen from the artist's eyes, and he had witnessed the beginning, and end, and meaning of the whole Universe.

A curiosity of the Indian religious art of this period in South America is the artists' apparent inability to get the eyes of animals right. Beasts of the field and birds are given human eyes, eyelashes — even, sometimes, eyebrows. This may be because llama

and alpaca do have eyes like people, with prominent eyelashes, and (in the case of alpaca) something approaching eyebrows, too. So, in these scenes, sheep, cows, horses and donkeys glance out at the viewer with horribly arresting, intelligent gaze. In pride of place on the church walls was a large, naive version of the Last Supper. On Jesus's plate lay a roast guinea-pig.

Everything was executed with such freshness, such amazement. When the young Indian converts had painted these walls, Jesus and Mary had only recently arrived in the Andes. The paintings were wide-eyed with wonder and faith. The work had the quality of astonishment. Like the eucalyptus tree now marching across the South American highlands and militant in its spread, this Church and its miracles had been, all those centuries ago, what botanists call an introduced species. Like the eucalyptus, it was at first prey to none of the local parasites, the viruses and sapping diseases which rot and check the spread of native organisms. New beliefs, like new plant species — like new antibiotics — are given a head start on their enemies. It takes pursuers time to catch up.

But now the church in Curahuara was disused and locked. Guarding the town on a rock hill behind was another church, stone-hewn, magnificent with its belltower; but abandoned, overgrown by grasses and on the edge of ruin. There is no longer a resident priest. Catholicism in the Andes, now so long established as to be almost indigenous, has generated at least its own predators. Alcoholism, Protestantism (as rampant now in the Andes as the eucalyptus), capitalism, cynicism, weariness and disbelief throttle the state religion like bindweed.

In the dry hills all around Curahuara stood countless *chullpas*, tomb-houses: mud towers, doorless, windowless and blind, in which the Indians once interred their dead. All have long been ransacked by grave-robbers. The religion of the Incas choked itself too. Greed and civil war delivered their empire, paralysed, into Pizarro's lap. Now the Conquistadors' religion was choking in turn.

We hitched a ride back to the main road, in a cruel sun the frozen stream was running again, through a dry, baking plain. "Ingleses!" said our driver. "La Princesa Diana. Ah, pobrecita! La Limpia, no?"

Philip Howard



Spizzerinctum and other words to get out of a scrape

Repentance cometh (to some) on the morning of Boxing Day. And a resolution to take things easy until the buzzing in the ears fades. But if you are feeling bad, think of Gunter Burpus of Bremen. "In retrospect, I admit that it was unwise to try to gain access to my house by the catflap," said Burpus, a 41-year-old gardener. "I suppose the reason they are called catflaps rather than human flaps is because they are too small for people. I should have realised that."

Burpus lost the keys to his house and tried to squeeze through the catflap. He pushed his head and shoulders through, but then got stuck and remained so for two days. "At first, it seemed rather amusing, I sang songs and told myself jokes. But then I wanted to go to the lavatory, I began shouting for help."

After a few hours a group of students came by. They removed his trousers and pants, painted his buttocks blue, and stuck a daffodil between his cheeks. Then they placed a sign beside the Burpus rear end saying "Germany resurgent, an essay in street art. Please give generously," and left.

People were passing, but when Herr Burpus cried for help, they just said "Very good! Very clever!" and threw coins in his trousers. After two days framed as conceptual art, he was rescued only because an old woman complained to the police when a dog started licking his private parts. The rescue services cut him free, and the police then arrested him. On his morning after long days stuck tight, Herr Burpus turned over a new leaf: "Luckily the police have now dropped the charges. And I collected more than DM3,000 (£1,000) in my underpants. So the time was not entirely wasted."

What Herr Burpus has is Spizzerinctum. "Spizzerinctum" you ask. Spizzerinctum is an American slang for the will to succeed, come catflaps and hot minestrone, as exemplified by Tony Blair, Richard Branson and Greg Rusedski. It means never giving up, never saying sorry and keeping smiling through the catflap, even on Boxing Day. You can find such topical words on a difficult words Website on the Internet. For example, when the stock market made a dramatic rebound after an equally dramatic decline, the tricky word Website offered: "With renugient defiance, the bull market reappeared Tuesday — at least for a day." Three possible definitions are offered for "renugient": re-bellowing, excessively slimy, or echoing loudly. A click of your mouse on "re-bellowing" brings the surfer to a page saying, "That's right! Nice job!" The wrong selection brings up "Sorry" or "Nope."

In fact "renugient" is not difficult for Latin lovers.

Mugire means to moo. So renugient means to moo back. See Virgil, *passim*: "The voice doubted by the echo of the woods moos again." Latin is not just beautiful. It is also useful because it is the root of two thirds of English vocabulary and it forces its user to think of the real meanings without woolly abstractions. So the latest edition of the Vatican's lexicon of new Latin looks into the skeletons that would have been well-known in Ancient Rome. A stripper is *sui ipsius nudator* — somebody who takes the clothes off her/himself. A top model is *photogenica puella exemplaris*, a photogenic girl model. Cicero might have been nonplussed by mobile phones and jet aircraft, but Latin has ways of naming their functions. And an Ancient Roman would have understood and recognised rock 'n' roll (*nutare et volvere*, the coarse and violent skinnings of satyr drama), McDonald's and a hot dog. No, not *cantis callidus*, foolish boy, but *passillum botello fartum*.

For our languages and lifestyles in Europe descend from our ancestors, not changing as much as we suppose in our age. If only politicians and greedy manufacturers of animal feed had read Aeschylus, we might have avoided the tragedies and wicked waste of BSE. In his lost play, *Glaucoos the Pontian*, (part of the trilogy that won the prize in 427BC), Glaucoos, the hero, fed his horses on human flesh in order to make them ferocious for combat. But the gods were angry. So they made the horses run berserk. And they ate Glaucoos. In our classics and our catflaps we can find comfort even for Boxing Day.

Rover's return

CHRISTMAS has come at last for the Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert: they have been given a Land Rover which was promised to them by the Prince of Wales nearly two years ago. After discussing the matter with his mentor, Sir Laurens van der Post, the Prince pledged early last year that he would give one of the vehicles — robust beasts with sand-adjusted tyres and air-conditioning — to the First People of the Kalahari, an outfit in Botswana. The promise was made in person to John Hardbatt, a Bushman and cattle rancher, who met the Prince in Scotland.

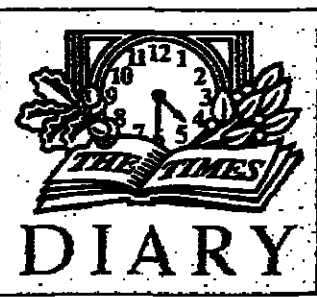
Problem. Both Hardbatt and Sir Laurens died later that year leaving no one to jog the Prince's memory. The weeks passed, the months passed, and still the Bushmen had no Land Rover. The case was taken up by Bushman Roy Sesana, who contacted Buckingham Palace pleading for his motor.

"Sir Laurens dying at the same time as Hardbatt did make things difficult, so there was a delay," admits Buck House. "We wanted to get the Bushmen to come to England to collect it but it was too tricky to organise." The vehicle has now just been shipped to Botswana but problems continue. "We had to have it registered in Gaborone then driven to the Bushmen in Ghanzi," says a khaki suit at Survival International, which helped to organise matters. "It took for ever."



A Bushgirl and the Prince

POLICE have sent Christmas cards to known criminals. Before punishment enthusiasts grow too steamed up, I should point out that cards bear the greeting: "thinking of you". A blue hat from Ashford police, Kent, reports: "We have an array of tactics to target criminals and this is just another way of letting them know we are watching them." If it persuades the criminal classes to steer clear of nearby Diary Towers, I will be delighted; yet I am uncertain



whether the measure is either tough on crime or tough on the causes of crime.

Tokyo Tess

THOMAS HARDY, the late Wessex scribbler, is being exported to Japan. An ersatz Hardy village — a manor house, half-timbered shops, white horses carved in the hillside, everything really but a gloomy mayor such as Michael Henchard — is to be built on a 24-acre site on the slopes of Mount Rokko, a smart ski resort. It will be carried out by the Border Oak Company, a modest outfit in Hertfordshire. "The Japanese are fascinated by British heritage," says the company. So it would seem — they already have an "Elizabethan" village and a pristine replica of Stratford-upon-Avon. One visiting

Jap. I hear, tried to buy and take home Leeds Castle.

Writing wrong

CAVORTING in period costumes has done little, it would seem, to awaken the literary sensibilities of the British actress Gwyneth Paltrow. Last week found her at a party in Tinseltown, where she decided to introduce her father to Mitch Glazer, the man who scripted *Great Expectations*. "Dad," she purred, "here's the man who wrote *Great Expectations*." Glazer, with impressive modesty, gently

explained that he merely wrote the screenplay.

Speak up

LIMBERING up for his maiden speech in the House of Lords is the Earl of Devon — who first took his seat on March 3, 1938. Seeing as he is now 81 and still to speak, it is thought that he has broken all records. This is a shame. The earl has much to impart. He was mentioned in dispatches in the Second World War and owns one of the nation's oldest living creatures — Timothy the tortoise.

Early Orson

A LOST and unknown film by the late — and great — director Orson Welles has been discovered. More than 60 years after it was shot, the short is to come before the public gaze. He made *Hearts of Age* when just 19, his first cinematic effort.



Welles: back from the grave

The film has been unearthed in Dublin and is to be screened at the National Film Theatre. The director, who was said to have been rather embarrassed by his teenage efforts, declared that it had been lost. This is not the stuff of family viewing. It features Welles and his girlfriend, Virginia Nicholson, who became his first wife, running amok in a graveyard. Welles assumes the role of a shadow, whose dialogue is limited to "The shadow always knows". That, and some rather strange moaning.

JASPER GERARD



"Say Ahhhh"



HISTORY IS NOW

Fifty years on: the lessons of 1948

"We cannot restore old policies. Or follow an antique drum," wrote the Nobel laureate of 1948, but T. S. Eliot of all poets recognised the debt we owe to the past and the patterns time can weave. "Only through time time is conquered," he wrote in *Burnt Norton*, the first of his *Four Quartets*: a sense of tradition's pull, the long shadow cast by our ancestors, inspired his poetry and animated his prose. Eliot is a poet for all seasons but he is pre-eminently the lyricist of the wintry landscape and the interpreter of Christmas's message to the modern age. This Christmas season *The Times* remembers the old policies and listens to the antique drum of 1948, a year with a claim to be the hinge of this century.

The year in which the century's most influential poet was honoured also saw the wheel of transformation carry to prominence men, places and movements which, 50 years later, have now travelled full circle. In the days ahead we shall reflect on cities, events, inventions and individuals for whom the last fifty years have proved a particular lifespan. In their beginning was their end.

Reflecting on the beginning of that year, the horizon towards which many then peered was further behind them. It was 1848, the Year of Revolutions, which caught imaginations. It was the year when the hopes of change briefly flared on the Continent before old dynasties extinguished them. The struggles of 1848 inspired England's 1948 romantics. At *The Times* the mood was less sanguine. On January 3, 1948 we reprinted the new year comment of 100 years before: "Irish famine, failure of the potato crop, a severe financial crisis, and reckless speculation are items in the catalogue of melancholy." There was irony in the choice. The United Kingdom in 1948 was a country where food was ever more tightly rationed, Chancellors battled to keep the pound steady and exchange controls had recently been introduced.

But there was hope too. The Attlee Government was in the middle of a transformation of society, building a new

Britain on the back of a landslide. The most sweeping of that Government's changes came in 1948. The National Health Service was established, the railways nationalised, the decisive break with our former allies in Moscow made and the Palestine mandate brought to an end: this was the year of the establishment of the state of Israel, a nation born in conflict, sustained by arms.

Fifty years on the wheel has turned full circle. A Labour Government relies on private finance as it ambitiously modernises Nye Bevan's health service and contemplates the overhaul of the whole welfare state. The new Labour Government is pledged not only to abjure state ownership but is preparing for future privatisation of the State's assets. Berlin, the cockpit of the Cold War, is to become the capital of a new Germany in a new Europe with very different barriers. Israel, although the process of peacemaking is fraught, is safer now than at any time: serious diplomatic observers speculate that there will never be another war in that part of the Middle East.

Some of Britain's contours would be familiar to a traveller from 1948. The Government still restricts the sale of food, although for very different reasons. The *Times* still warns the Government, as a candid friend, against too crude an intervention in the labour market or too insensitive an intrusion into the green belt. In the editorials of 1948 it was the direction of labour and the construction of new towns, now it is the minimum wage and the development of new housing estates. The recurrence of the itch to intervene and the happy role of this newspaper in standing for liberty and tolerance of traditional life are reminders of the lessons history can teach us. Any year might yield similar lessons. But 1948, with its spate of births whose lives can now be safely judged, yields more than most. It was a watershed whose rivers have run their course and as we reflect, like Eliot, on "what might have been and what has been" we can better prepare for the millennium which fast approaches.

WON LAST CHANCE

The IMF has acted decisively — South Korea must do the same

It has not been a comfortable Christmas in East Asia. The economic calamity that has engulfed the region in recent weeks does not rest for the Christian festive season. The International Monetary Fund announced on Wednesday that it would intensify and accelerate its assistance to South Korea — a country that started 1997 as a financial powerhouse but seemed destined to end it in a state of slump. Some \$10 billion will now be rushed to Seoul to cover the immediate difficulties of debt repayment. As a result, South Korea's currency, the won, has at last shown some stirring of recovery. Sentiments in the local stock market, however, remain exceptionally sombre.

The IMF has moved with admirable vigour. International financial institutions are often criticised, correctly, for bureaucratic inertia. In this case, despite little time in which to make even a provisional evaluation, caution has, rightly, been abandoned. The crisis in Asia has the potential to create a worldwide recession on a scale scarcely seen in the postwar era. The IMF's bold decision should enhance economic stability in the short term and thus avert severe financial meltdown in 1998.

The IMF would have acted sooner were it not for the complexities of South Korean politics. The outgoing, and utterly discredited, Government, chose to ignore the warning signs of the coming collapse. There is also considerable suspicion that it actively suppressed such information in the hope of shoring up electoral support. That would certainly fit a far broader pattern of corruption. The election of Kim Dae Jung puts paid to those ambitions. Only in the

past week since the presidency was settled have South Koreans discovered how deep and disastrous their plight really is. Honesty was the essential precondition for the IMF to advance its assistance.

The Government has now promised dramatic reforms of its own in return for the bailout. These measures will centre on the complete restructuring of the country's financial system and the widespread introduction of market forces into areas from which they had been excluded. There is now an indication that direct action will be taken to deal with a bankrupt banking network. South Korea will have to go further and faster still if it is truly to tackle its economic crisis. That these initiatives should be accepted by a President-elect associated with the Left is Nonetheless, it may be that in these circumstances only a man from the Left can salvage South Korean capitalism.

It is absolutely crucial that the measures promised are quickly implemented. Strictly speaking it will be another two months before Kim Dae Jung takes office. He has been behaving this week as if he has already assumed power. His country would have collapsed if he had not. The outgoing administration must continue to allow him such leeway. If radical reform is not coherently pursued then it will be extremely difficult for ministers in countries such as Britain to defend, let alone extend, their aid to Seoul. The IMF will be intimately involved in South Korean affairs for months, if not years, to come. It must have complete confidence in this set of politicians. Outside funding cannot continue indefinitely. South Korea will not have another chance.

A MORE MODERN MONARCH

Her Majesty moves sensitively with the times

In her Christmas broadcast the Queen wrought a tapestry of "joy and woe... woven fine". A year in the nation's life which saw an upsurge of hope and a pitch into despair was reflected in the experience of the nation's first family, whose private tragedy became the country's. Yet although the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was the year's defining moment and one which precipitated a difficult period for her, the Queen has also had causes for consolation, indeed celebration, to reflect in her address. Balancing the recognition of loss with the cause for cheer is the task any reviewer of this year of extremes must face and Her Majesty did so in appropriate fashion, by dwelling first and most poignantly on grief before giving thanks for blessings and giving voice to hope.

The nature of yesterday's broadcast, the first produced by Independent Television News after the termination of the BBC's traditional monopoly, marked another stage in the sensitive modernisation of the monarchy. The producers created an altogether more accessible package by skilfully blending moving documentary footage of the Princess of Wales's funeral with more cheering actuality from the Commonwealth conference and Her Majesty's golden wedding, all interwoven with

the traditional address to camera. The tone of the broadcast bespoke a restoration in monarchical confidence after a sad year.

The recovery in public esteem which the monarchy enjoys after the anguished September days was most strikingly underlined by the results of our MORI poll on Christmas Eve which saw the Prince of Wales restored to widespread popularity and republicanism once more the cause of a receding minority.

The strength of public support and affection for the Royal Family was, in any case, powerfully visible last month in the reaction to the Queen and Prince Philip's golden wedding celebrations. The graceful manner in which the occasion was marked, the sense of domestic solidity and, in particular, the self-deprecatory humour of both Queen and Duke in public speeches entrenched public loyalties. In her comments on another Union, that between the nations of this kingdom, Her Majesty affirmed, as is her right, the hope that devolution would prove that diversity and unity are complementary and not conflicting. The monarchy, and the Union, are both more adaptable than their critics hope and yesterday's broadcast will have underlined how resilient both institutions remain to the changing currents of time and chance.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Call for council on health priorities

From Professor K. G. M. M. Alberti and Professor M. H. Lessof

Sir, The White Paper on *The New NHS* (report, December 10; letters, December 17) is very welcome but has understated the difficulties which the health service now faces.

There is no longer any country in the world, however rich, which can afford to provide all its citizens with access to the increasing range of services, medical procedures and drugs which are becoming available. For that reason priorities must be chosen, but the White Paper gives no guidance on the way in which these choices are to be made.

What is needed is a more focused discussion on the ethical principles and the criteria which will, for example, help the new primary care consortia to determine their priorities in an equitable fashion. There also needs to be an increase in public discussion, understanding and acceptance of the fact that the NHS cannot meet all expectations.

The Royal College of Physicians has proposed that the Government should support the establishment of an independent council for health care priorities to advise on these issues. With the new developments that are proposed in the White Paper, it would be a pity if this opportunity were to be missed.

Yours faithfully,
K. G. M. M. ALBERTI
(President,
MAURICE LESSOF
(Chairman, Working Party on
Health Care Priorities),
Royal College of Physicians,
Regent's Park, NW1 4LE,
December 22

Westminster ruling

From Mr C. J. Macdonald-Brown

Sir, The Westminster "homes for voters" scandal was one which by its very nature involved dishonesty, cynical manipulation and sleaze on a level not seen for a long time.

I suppose it must have been obvious to all involved that Dame Shirley Porter might, because of the way her financial affairs are organised, be able to avoid paying any surcharge. Your report (December 20) that she might escape having to pay more than a fraction was therefore no surprise.

I do not know what powers the district auditor had, but it is worth noting that for over 20 years the English courts, in civil proceedings, have been granting "asset-freezing" orders to stop this sort of situation arising.

We appear to be left in this case, after a seven-year inquiry costing some £3 million, with a court ruling which may be worth little more than the paper it is written on. I hope I am wrong.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MACDONALD-BROWN,
Gouldens (solicitors),
22 Tudor Street, EC4Y 0JJ.

From Mr G. M. Beresford Hartwell

Sir, Political memories are surprisingly short, and sauce for the goose ought to be sauce for the gander. In Westminster, council homes were sold in the hope of creating or preserving a majority.

Isn't that precisely why many council houses were built in the first place?

Yours faithfully,
G. M. BERESFORD HARTWELL,
40 Brambledown Road,
Wallingford, Surrey SM6 0TF.
geoffreyhartwell.demon.co.uk
December 20.

Hidden pockets

From Mr Chris Maund

Sir, I understand the praise for the girls of Tiffin Girls' School for their initiative in marketing knickers with pockets (report, December 11; letter, December 18), but I am concerned about the use to which these garments may be put by some clubgoers.

The police and door security have recently been working together to keep illegal substances out of clubs — a difficult enough task as it is, and one these garments will make impossible, providing the perfect hiding place.

It is illegal for door security to check the undergarments of anyone entering a club. Anyone wearing these garments knows full well they can put whatever they like into these pockets, and that they cannot be searched. This makes a mockery of the work of the police and door security.

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS MAUND,
45 Hainault Street, London SE9 2EF.
chris.mound@ecm.com

Cat and mouse

From Dr J. Caroe

Sir, What a delightful present Mrs Cat gave us (letter, "Stocking fillers") on Christmas Eve. She quotes the mouse poem, "Twas the night before Christmas...," thus neatly providing the answers to five clues in today's Times Two crossword. Thank you!

Yours etc,
JOHN CAROE,
20 Pridesau Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 2NB.
caroe@btinternet.com
December 24.

Sexist taunting in the Commons

From the Director of the Fawcett Society

Sir, The criticism by some Tory women MPs that those of their Labour counterparts who complain about sexism in the Commons are "naïve, spoilt and oversensitive" (report, December 13) is misguided. It is not that these women cannot cope with sexist taunting, rather that they should not have to.

The public-schoolboy culture of UK politics, with its pointless rituals and childish insults, is disliked by women from all parties. For too long women MPs complained privately, but felt that they had to "put up and shut up" in order to prove that they were as tough as the men. Under the playground rules which still govern the behaviour of many MPs the correct response to a bully is to stay quiet, or hit back (letter, December 19).

The dramatic increase in the number of Labour women MPs has given them a confidence to chal-

lenge these assumptions. Rather than feeling they have to show how well they can fit in with the "yah boo" culture, they are questioning whether our democracy might be a bit more healthy if our MPs were required to conform to normal standards of workplace behaviour.

It is unfortunate that some Conservative women still believe that they have to demonstrate how tough they are by claiming that they can cope with the taunts and insults. Challenging the acceptability of this behaviour is a far tougher task.

However, Conservative women will eventually have to face up to the sexism in their own party if they are going to increase their numbers.

Yours sincerely,
SHELAGH DIPLOCK,
Director,
The Fawcett Society,
Fifth Floor,
45 Beech Street, EC2Y 8AD,
December 19.

Assessing impact of climate change

From Sir John Houghton,
Chairman of the Royal Commission
on Environmental Pollution

Sir, Dr Wilfred Beckerman ("Warning to global change", article, December 11; see also letters, December 15) mentions certain benefits of climate change while ignoring its main impacts.

These are likely to include a rise in sea level (causing substantial problems in many coastal regions and displacing tens of millions of people) and changes in the hydrological cycle (leading to more frequent and more intense droughts and floods).

Dr Beckerman also ignores economic studies which indicate that the likely cost to the world of damage from climate change and adaptation to it is substantially greater than the cost of sensibly organised programmes of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. His selective arguments fail to

do justice to the complexity of the climate change issue.

The Kyoto agreement is much more than the "mouse" Beckerman suggests: to have an agreement at all over an issue with such major global implications is a real achievement. It is a beginning, not an end.

In seeing the challenge of climate change more as an opportunity than a threat, and in forging an appropriate partnership with industry, the UK Government is demonstrating an effective way forward, based on honest, balanced and thorough appraisals of the science, technology, economics and equity considerations involved.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOUGHTON,
Chairman, Royal Commission on
Environmental Pollution,
Church House,
Great Smith Street, SW1P 3BZ,
December 22.

Millennium matters

From Mr Richard Weston

Sir, Simon Jenkins mounts a predictably spirited defence of the New Millennium Experience ("There's nothing to hide", December 20), but does little to allay my doubts about the enterprise.

The 1851 and 1951 exhibitions were certainly designed at short notice, but their aims were clear: the former to celebrate Britain's commercial might (and outdo the French), the latter to raise spirits and introduce a modern lifestyle after years of war, rationing and "Utility" goods.

The Crystal Palace was a compelling demonstration of industrialised building and helped usher in a new vision of space; the vast marquee at Greenwich is a technological tour de force, but will barely merit a footnote in architectural history.

"Hundreds of Britain's young designers" entrusted with an exhibition budget of hundreds of millions certainly ought to produce something sensational, but the fear remains that it will be no more than that. Great exhibitions, like great works of art, are driven by clear ideas, not sensational

packaging of themes which, from what we have been told so far, a focus group of ten-year-olds could have put together in an afternoon.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WESTON,
57 Lamborne Road,
Leicester LE2 6HQ,
December 20.

From Professor D. Robertson Smith

Sir, According to an astronomer (report, December 22) we are now in the year 2009. Can we now forget the Millennium Dome?

Yours faithfully,
D. ROBERTSON SMITH,
1 Bishop's Wood,
Cuddesdon, Oxfordshire OX44 9HA.

From Mr C. A. Beaton

Sir, Has Professor Giovanni Baratta found an answer to the millennium time-bomb?

Yours faithfully,
CALLUM BEATON,
La Posse de Bas,
St Martin's, Guernsey GY4 6EQ.
callumabeaton@psionworld.net
December 22.

From Mr Andrew Ivey

Sir, Mr David Oldbury (letter, December 15) says that the wider the country, the slimmer the chances are that his mobile phone will work. He is probably referring to the widely used cellular phone.

Equipped with an albeit more costly (from £3,000) Inmarsat portable satellite phone, Mr Oldbury, or any other school party leader, could make calls from anywhere in the United Kingdom.

This service simply requires a clear sight of the sky for calls to be made to any country from 98 per cent of the world's land mass, including the most remote locations such as deserts and rainforests.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW IVEY
(Marketing manager),
Inmarsat,
99 City Road, EC1Y 1AX.
andrew-ivey@inmarsat.org
December 16.

Advertising ban

From Ms Jayati Srivastava

Sir, The decision of the Broadcast Advertising Clearance Centre to ban two television advertisements by Christian Aid as "political" is deplorable (report, December 19).

The purpose of the campaign, of which these advertisements are part, is simply to highlight the mayhem caused by Third World debt which causes extreme suffering to millions of people, particularly children, in the poorer countries. To ban them is a denial of the right to be heard by the thousands of innocent and vulnerable victims who are suffering in silence.

It appears to me that it is the BAAC decision which is political, not the advertisements.

Yours sincerely,
JAYATI SRIVASTAVA,
21 Nansen Village,
21 Woodside Avenue,
London N12 8AQ,
December 17.

On a rising note

From Mr Royer Slater

Sir, I notice an increasing tendency for people to raise the pitch of their voices at the end of statements of fact, as though asking a question. Rarely encountered a couple of years ago, incidences have increased and the majority of my business telephone callers even introduce themselves and their companies with this inflection, as though appealing to me for corroboration.

Does this indicate an increasing lack of confidence to affirm?

I am, certainly, yours faithfully,
ROYER SLATER,
79 Hermitage Woods Crescent,
Woking, Surrey GU21 1UF,
December 23.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Is this the final Boxing Day hunt?

From the Archbishop of Wales and others

Sir, Friday is St Stephen's Day, when by tradition the Church recalls the death of the first Christian martyr. It is also the busiest day of the year for hunting with hounds. Approximately 300 hunts will take place on Friday. Without intervention, by this time next year between 15,000 and 20,000 more foxes will have been killed by hunting.

As Christians we believe that how we treat the rest of Creation is every bit as much a question of morality as unemployment or homelessness. We also remember the example of the 8th-century French bishop, St Hubert, who was promoted by his Christian vocation to renounce deerhunting as a sport.

We welcome the Boxing Day publication of *A Christian Case Against Hunting* by the Christian Socialist Movement, which represents an important contribution to this ethical debate.

We recognise that the Government has many pressing issues to deal with; but we hope and pray that time will be found for legislation to ensure that this will be the last Boxing Day when the savage and terrifying death of an animal is treated as a sport.

Yours faithfully,
TALWYN CAMBRENSIS,
TOLU ABIOLA,
JOHN AUSTIN BAKER,
MAXWELL CRAIG,
RICHARD DOVER,
COLIN HULME,
DOMINIC READING,
MICHAEL ROFFEN,
DONALD SOPER,
c/o Christian Socialist Movement,
Bradley Close, White Lion Street, N1,
December 23.

From Bishop Hugh Montefiore

Sir, I was saddened to be asked by some of my fellow Christians to add my name to a letter to you as publicly joining part of the movement to stop foxhunting. I have not done so.

I should have thought that, on any showing, we have a prior duty to prevent stress and suffering by domesticated rather than wild animals, since wild species in the course of nature have been subject to predation, while domesticated species have not.

So I would pay more attention to the predominantly urban abolitionists of foxhunting if they gave priority in their publicity to the stress suffered by millions of hens in batteries rather than the comparatively few foxes in the hunting field.

But then, battery hens are shielded from the public gaze; and, what is more, they provide urban multitudes with cheap eggs and poultry, while foxes do not. And what about the countless turkeys consumed over Christmas?

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MONTEFIORE,
White Lodge, 23 Bellevue Road,
Wandsworth Common, SW17 7EB,
December 23.

Reindeer recruit

From Mrs Joanna Haines

Sir, At least Rudolph can be proud of his name (letters, December 17, 23).

For years Donner flew noisily with his flashy partner, Blitzen. However, modern editions of Clement C. Moore's poem have turned him into Donner — a reindeer once full of sound and fury, now signifying nothing. Who better to provide space to restore Donner's dignity than The Thunderer?

Yours faithfully,
JOANNA HAINES,
74 Gordon Road, W5 2AR,
December 23.

Hard cases

From Mr John Griffiths

Sir, Your headline today, "GP code reveals hard cases", reminds me of our family doctor in the 1930s. Like many doctors then, he ran his own dispensary which made up his own prescriptions. One of these, for hypochondriacs, was simply "ADT".

Any Dr. Darn Thing usually consisted of water, peppermint, Epsom salts and colouring.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN GRIFFITHS,
28 Palace Road,
East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9DL,
December 20.

From the Reverend Julian Hardyman

Sir, At the Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham, the code NBFI occasionally appears on patient notes. It communicates clandestinely that the patient is "Not Bad For Illness".

Yours etc,
JULIAN HARDYMAN,
96 Arbory Road, Cambridge CB4 2JF.
jhardyman@btm.net

From Dr R. L. Marshall

Sir, Though not of the profession, I did hear from a doctor in medicine of an entry of considerable though covert honesty: GOK — God Only Knows.

Yours faithfully,
R. L. MARSHALL,
Holly Cottage, Woodhouse Eaves,
Leicestershire LE12 8RN,
December 20.

OBITUARIES

EDDIE CHAPMAN

Eddie Chapman, wartime spy, died on December 11 aged 83. He was born on November 7, 1914.

Safecracker, jailbreaker, wartime double agent, lounge lizard and latterly health farm owner, Eddie Chapman had a life of the sort which makes a barely believable, and bad, movie — as indeed it did. Yet, amid the welter of semi-fictional details which constituted his curriculum vitae, there was a solid core of truth.

He was, indeed, a highly successful, though somewhat erratic and eventually untrustworthy, British-run double agent in the Second World War. This was a career which, improbably, he owed to his having been in jail in the Channel Islands at the time of the German occupation. This, in turn, was the result of a reasonably successful career as a gentleman criminal, which had followed a spell in the Coldstream Guards. In a life which seemed almost a parody of itself, Chapman was the archetypal hero-villain/charmer-rat, and remained so almost until the end of his life. He was, needless to say, immensely attractive to women.

Edward Donald Chapman (as he was never thereafter to be known) was born in Sunderland and grew up on Wearside. He began his working life in the shipbuilding trade and then, in the desperate state of the economy in the 1930s, joined the Coldstream Guards. Although this gave him some cachet in later life (he looked a plausible Guards' officer although he in fact served in the ranks) he and military life did not suit. He tended to go AWOL for long periods and was eventually discharged.

From then until the outbreak of the Second World War his career was like something out of an Ealing studios film, in which gentleman burglars puff on ebony cigarette holders and sip fino sherry (or Krug champagne), probably with

their arms round glamorous women, while contemplating their next job. He was actually quite good at this line of work, good enough to be hired in the 1960s as a sort of honorary crime correspondent of *The Sunday Telegraph*, whose readers he then proceeded to warn against the attentions of people like him.

Cinemas were his favourite target, since they carried plenty of cash overnight as they did not, in those days, empty their tills of the evening's take. As a safe-cracker his favoured device was a condom full of gelignite. He made enough money to be able to frequent the West End nightspots which were his natural haunt. Although a compulsive talker — and boaster — he led a charmed life. His suits, his grooming and his suave manner made him seem an unlikely villain.

He was, of course, bound to get arrested, but on the first occasion he was, fleeing southwards after a bungled job in Edinburgh, he was merely remanded on bail. He fled to Jersey where he might have been safe. But he was quite incapable of giving up his old habits and, in March 1939, for blowing a safe in St Helier, to steal the paltry sum of £25, he was arrested and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

In the undemanding atmosphere of incarceration there, his natural proclivities soon asserted themselves. Stealing a suit from the prison governor's son (with his gentlemanly bearing, he had managed to wrangle a job as personal servant to the governor), he scaled a 50ft wall surrounding St Helier jail and jumped to liberty. This liberty did not last long. Improbably equipped with a strapping net, he was discovered by police on Plémont beach on the northwest of the island. After a short, sharp struggle, described by onlookers as "a first-class scrap", he was overpowered and taken back into custody. He was sentenced to an additional 12 months' imprisonment, this time with hard labour.

This might have been the begin-



From left, Chapman, Billy Hill and the boxer George Walker discuss the mysterious blaze on Hill's yacht *Flamingo*, in a Soho pub

ning of a weary time for Chapman. But deliverance was at hand in the unlikely shape of the invasion of the Channel Islands by the Germans. In exchange for his liberty, Chapman offered to conduct sabotage missions in Britain for the Germans who were only too ready to believe that someone of his background was in a highly disaffected state of mind. He was given the codename Fritz and in December 1942 was parachuted into Britain.

His mission was to blow up the de Havilland factory near Hatfield where the Mosquito was being assembled.

On landing, he contacted the police and demanded to be put in touch with Scotland Yard. The police passed him on to MI5 to whom he told his story. Rechristened Zig-Zag by British Intelligence, he became a double agent, his first task being to help to

"destruction" of the Hatfield factory. This required elaborate deception. Chapman had to be seen to have "stolen" the explosives for the job. Luckily his previous career made it easy for him to accomplish this, and an explosion which gave the appearance of having caused great damage to the factory was engineered. Deceived by the results of their aerial reconnaissance, his Abwehr masters were highly impressed.

It was now the Double Cross committee's aim to get him back to Germany so that he could be briefed for further "sabotage" work against Allied targets. He worked his way in a British ship to neutral Portugal where he was given a bomb to plant by a German agent. Instead, he turned it over to the ship's master, and then staged a disappearance under cover of a dockside brawl.

But his espionage career had

already passed its apogee. Later in the war he was sent back to Britain by the Germans and again came under MI5's wing. But in London he took to associating with his old underworld cronies. His indiscreet behaviour in the West End nightspots he was able to frequent regularly, thanks to the handsome payment he had received from the Germans for his first mission, did not endear him to his MI5 controllers. Eventually British Intelligence dispensed with his services.

By this time the war was drawing to an end and he managed to see it out without falling foul of the Abwehr.

For their part, the British authorities agreed to overlook his past criminal record, as a reward for his wartime services. In spite of official attempts to prevent him, he eventually published an account of his wartime exploits, *The Eddie Chapman Story* (1953), which in turn spawned a rather messy film, *Triple Cross* (1967), starring Christopher Plummer and Yul Brynner.

Although he was frequently in trouble with the law throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Chapman managed to stay out of jail. In the 1950s he was a close friend of the self-styled "King of Soho", the club owner and underworld boss Billy Hill. With Hill, he took part in a number of exotic-sounding — but mainly, in fact, merely ridiculous — contraband and kidnapping adventures in the latter's motor yacht *Flamingo*, which was at one stage wanted by police and coastguard services from one end of the Mediterranean to the other. On one occasion she mysteriously caught fire in Toulon harbour, giving rise to suspicions that she had been sabotaged.

But Chapman survived his dubious connections unscathed, and in 1994 featured in a BBC television programme *Underworld*, as one of the elder statesmen of the criminal fraternity. He also ran a successful health club in Hertfordshire.

Chapman is survived by his wife Betty, and a daughter.

CHRISTOPHER ST JOHN ELLIS



Ellis, left, and the Rev Christopher Courtauld, with whom he founded the Ocean Youth Club, aboard the latter's "gentleman's" yacht *Duet*

Christopher St John Ellis, GM, sailor and youth leader, died on December 18 aged 77. He was born on June 20, 1920.

AN ENEMY of convention, Christopher St John Ellis devoted much of his life to challenging the established order, usually with great humour. It was typical that his George Medal should have been awarded for defusing a wartime bomb he had been ordered not to touch, in a Plymouth hospital. It was also said he had dismantled an explosive device with a teaspoon while in a state of semi-consciousness in Malta, where he lay in a near-coma for a month after taking the full blast of an Italian stick bomb. His bravery helped to keep the harbour clear for Allied access to Suez.

Chris Ellis's love of sailing stemmed from a childhood discovery that life at sea relieved the lung problems from which he suffered all his life. Whooping cough, chronic asthma and the bouts of pneumonia (to which he finally succumbed). At 16 he sailed his father's 36-ft Bawley single-handedly down the English Channel without

permission — and later conceived ocean cruises as a cure for ills of a more social kind. After the war he devoted much of his life to working with teenagers first at Radley, but then from more deprived backgrounds. And he later flouted convention, to become one of the first Eton and Oxford-educated headmasters of a secondary modern. He worked tirelessly to create opportunity for the less privileged. Suspicious of organised religion, he believed passionately in the human spirit, and in the Ocean Youth Club created an environment in which the potential of some of the most excluded young children could be realised.

In 1950 he made the first of two transatlantic voyages — the first with Peter and Susan Pye in *Moonraker*. In his account of the trip, Peter Pye recalls Ellis trying to eat a whole tree of bananas, in a vain effort not to waste the fruit which had all ripened at once. Inspired by these great pioneers of ocean cruising, Chris Ellis conceived the idea that the skills required to navigate a passage — often in extreme conditions — could be the perfect antidote to antisocial behaviour.

Some years later he made the second trip to America — but this time his own 53ft pilot cutter *Theodora* was crewed entirely by school-leavers. In 1956 the Warden of Radley gave permission for *Theodora* to be entered in the first Tall Ships Race from Torbay to Lisbon. She lost her topmast in the Bay of Biscay — but two years later she won her class in the second Tall Ships contest.

These voyages were the genesis of the Ocean Youth Club — founded in 1960 with the Rev Christopher Courtauld, whose turn-of-the-century gentleman's yacht *Duet* made up its first fleet with *Theodora*. To date, a hundred thousand children have sailed with the OYC.

By the 1960s Ellis's pioneering attitude to social work brought him to Stevenage, where urban planners for the new town had not reckoned with a generation of bored young men who were ripping up cinema seats. As at Radley, where he responded to a roving brief with inspirational extracurricular ideas and expeditions, Marlow Secondary Modern gained its first rowing boat under his direction (bought with his own money).

He is survived by her and their three sons and a daughter.

and was later to produce one of Britain's great Olympians: Steve Redgrave.

Ellis's skills as an educationist had not gone unnoticed in more illustrious circles too: in 1955 he had turned up at Balmoral in the unlicensed Austin lorry which had already made him famous at Radley, to tutor the young Duke of Kent. It was said that the hair of a pupil had turned white overnight after its brakes failed (as they often did) while Ellis was overtaking between a bus and a lorry.

Chris Ellis was all his life a great inventor. His devotion to technology arose from his wartime frustration with the Special Services Unit. By 1945 operatives like him were being assigned to Heath Robinsonian inventions such as landing craft intended to sink and then reinflate. The experience impressed upon him the importance of good design, of which he became a pioneer in the academic field.

Having taught Peter Cook in the Marionette Club at Radley, he went on to introduce design to the curriculum at Eton, where he was an inspirational force in the School of Mechanics. He oversaw tremendous projects from theatrical set building to yacht-fitting and it was here that a team built a clock out of macaroni. He later became a keen correspondent to the letters page of various newspapers on the importance of technology in education. His own beachhouse at Eton and then on the Isle of Wight were filled with craft he had himself designed. And time is kept in the Ellis household by a clock which as well as telling the time of day, the day of the week and the date of the calendar month, tells the date of the lunar month, phases of the moon, the local tide and its rise and fall.

Chris Ellis was a great draughtsman, and friends would find him shading with one hand and measuring perspective with the other — for he was ambidextrous. His earliest architectural drawings won him childhood prizes — but he continued to love buildings, and later told a friend he had willingly risked his life to defuse a bomb in St Paul's Cathedral.

He loved music, breaching the siege of Malta to have his flute delivered by submarine: the same instrument lies in its case at the house in which he lived on the Isle of Wight, to this day. Friends would often be consoled by members of a makeshift orchestra beside the fire — where every visitor would have to contribute in some way to the Toy Symphony. His wife Gill would often take the lead with the triangle. She was the helmswoman of his remarkable life; together they made an inspirational team.

He is survived by her and their three sons and a daughter.

TOSHIRO MIFUNE

Toshiro Mifune, Japanese film actor, died in Tokyo on December 24 aged 77. He was born in Tsingtao, China, on April 1, 1920.

IN A screen career that was shaped by the great director Akira Kurosawa, Toshiro Mifune became the best-known of Japanese actors outside his own country. Kurosawa launched Mifune's international career with *Rashomon*, which caused a sensation at the 1951 Venice Film Festival, and opened up to the West the great riches latent in contemporary Japanese cinema.

But Mifune is even better known in the West for his role in *The Seven Samurai* (1954), which, in its turn, spawned John Sturges's *The Magnificent Seven*, of 1960. Mifune's towering screen presence (which included rugged good looks which were in marked contrast to the refined, almost delicate, features of many of his contemporaries) made him much more intelligible to Western audiences than many other distinguished Japanese actors (he was often dubbed the "Japanese John Wayne"), and his versatility gave him a popularity all over the world. This was underpinned by his success in the popular television series *Shogun*.

His range enabled him to inhabit both explosive and violent roles, and to switch to the quietly ironic. And he was as at home in epic versions of Japanese history, peopled by warlords and noble peasants, as he was in wry contemporary situation comedies, featuring mildly disillusioned modern man.

Born in China to Japanese parents, Toshiro Mifune spent his childhood and youth outside Japan. He was called up for service with the Japanese imperial forces during the Second World War and worked as an aerial photographer. When he first came



Mifune in his best-known international role as one of *The Seven Samurai* (1954)

"home" to Japan after the war it was to a devastated country with few opportunities for a man of his skills.

He went for a technical job at the Toho film production company, but at that time directors were looking for a new look from Japanese leading men and his CV was passed to the casting department. His ability to stage the most dramatic bursts of anger came to the attention of Kurosawa, who cast him in his film *The Drunken Angel* of 1948.

But it was *Rashomon*, an enigmatic tale set in medieval Japan, which propelled Mifune, who played a cynical bandit, and Kurosawa on to the international stage. It went to the 1951 Venice International Film Festival where it was hailed as a revelation and won the Grand Prix. (It never had quite such an ecstatic welcome in Japan itself.) It also won an Academy Award for the best foreign film of its year. It was later reshaped as a — spectacularly bad — Hollywood western, *The Outrage* (1964).

Sichinin no Samurai (*The Seven Samurai*) extended the reputation of both director and actor, particularly in Hol-

lywood, where its debt to the western did not go unnoticed. Though set in 16th-century Japan, the resemblance of its plains to the lawless wide-open spaces of the American West was immediately apparent. Its progeny, *The Magnificent Seven*, which transmutates the samurai into seven American gunslingers who protect a Mexican village from bandits, had its original's energy, but none of its strange beauty.

Mifune's most distinguished work was done for Kurosawa, for whom he appeared in 16 films, but he went on to make more than 140 movies overall, becoming a popular international property as no other of his contemporaries did. His roles in Kurosawa's *Yojimbo* and *Red Beard* won him Best Actor Awards at the Venice film festivals of 1961 and 1965.

He was also a natural to provide "authentic" Japanese interest in such different Hollywood war films as the pre-emptive *Hell in the Pacific* (1969), in which he played a Japanese naval commander stranded on a Pacific atoll with Lee Marvin's American pilot, and *Midway* (1976), a sprawling panorama of the decisive

battle of the Pacific war, in which he was pitched in against the likes of Charlton Heston, Henry Fonda, Robert Mitchum, Glenn Ford and James Coburn.

In the meantime he had, in 1963, formed his own production company, Mifune Productions, which made a number of films. He had a shot at directing himself, but his one film, *The Legacy of Five Hundred Thousand*, was a resounding box-office flop.

His popularity in the West was increased even more when he was given a central role in the American television series *Shogun* (1980), a somewhat rambling, though visually opulent, adaptation of the James Clavell novel of that name. It won an Emmy award in 1981 for being the Outstanding Limited Series of the year.

Reflecting on his protégé's unique qualities in his autobiography, Kurosawa recalled: "It was above all the speed with which he expressed himself that was astounding. The ordinary Japanese actor might need ten feet of film to get across an impression: Mifune needed only three feet."

Toshiro Mifune is survived by two sons.

CHRISTMAS UNDER THE POOR LAW.

When each London parish was the unit of administration as well as of assessment, Christmas under the Poor Law was, in fact, Christmas in the workhouses. Then each workhouse was a home for all old and young, sick and hearty, those who became inmates as a test of poverty and those who did so through helplessness — whether that helplessness arose from tender youth, old age, contagious disease, weak mind, or any other form of malady. Yesterday's festival, by the operation of the legislation of late years, found all this changed. London workhouses still contain many aged, many sick, many helpless from other causes of helplessness, but the young are no longer trained to pauperism, contagious diseases are no longer housed in workhouse walls and the imbecile no longer crowd the wards in London. All these classes are separated and separately looked after, and though ties which formerly bound the well-to-do parishioner to take a personal interest in the care of those dependent upon the rates have been somewhat loosened, yet a passing review of what has been done and what is doing will show that alike in the interests of humanity, in the proper care of the sick poor,

ON THIS DAY
December 26, 1871

This is a favourable view of an institution which the public saw as its last refuge. George Lansbury said of one in 1892 that it was clean and polished, "but of goodwill, kindness, there was none." George Sims's Christmas Day in the Workhouse (1903) was a powerful indictment of the system.

as well as in a statesmanlike dealing with floating pauperism, the change has had a beneficial influence upon the present and future of London.

In no London workhouse yesterday nor in the many schools raised out of the London rates were the usual Christmas bounties forgotten. Altered in character as many of them are, still visitors from the outside world keep up the custom of looking to the well-doing of the rate-supported poor on this day. In no parts of London is this old usage more closely adhered to than in Marylebone, in the workhouses of the city of London, and in St Georges, Hanover-square, places in which

there are special circumstances which admit of this custom. In the new institutions under the Metropolitan Asylums Board, too, now this year brought fairly into work, the customs of the season were as far as possible observed. At Caterham Asylum, where there are, in round numbers, 1,600 imbeciles, and at Levensden Asylum, where there are 1,620, all the festivities of the season were allowed — within a judicious limit. These two large establishments take the place of the dingy wards in confined workhouse buildings in the midst of London, with occasional visits from the overworked medical man whose sorry duty it was give daily attendance to the persons suffering from varied maladies within the workhouse walls. The happy change these institutions have provided to the classes for whom they were designed — namely, the harmless and incurable imbeciles who were formerly in the workhouse — is to be seen in the fact that, though deemed incurable, under the genial treatment of a cheerful place, many have recovered from the seemingly hopeless imbecility. Each of these institutions has an efficient medical and administrative staff, and the affairs of each are guided by committees, appointed by the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and approved by the Local Government Board...

0345 909090

THE TIMES

INSIDE
SECTION

2
TODAY

SPORTS QUIZ

Recall the events
of 1997 and win
festive prizes
PAGE 25

ARTS

Triumphs and
fiascos: a year
in review
PAGE 32

BUSINESS

Why Granada's
Elm Robinson
is under fire
PAGES 36-40

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO

PAGES
38, 39

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26 1997

Two brighter shades of grey

**Desert Orchid
and One Man
have more in
common than
colour and
talent. Richard
Dunwoody
compares two
great chasers**

Comparisons between racehorses are invariably unsatisfactory — different styles, different temperaments, different strengths render the exercise futile. Today, however, I have no wish to avoid the inevitable, for mine is the privilege of having ridden the two great greys whose exploits have illuminated recent Christmases.

Desert Orchid was the horse of a jockey's dreams. Athletic and exuberant, he made every race a rollercoaster of emotions for his ever-growing legion of followers. His startling, snow-like colouring merely added to his popularity but, in truth, he needed no artificial charm. He won the King George VI Chase four Boxing Days out of five and I was his partner for the last two.

Now, seven years on from the last of that quartet, there is another giant grey, large in the public consciousness. His colouring is a shade darker and his style of running does not care to match the Pied Piperish Dessie, but One Man has won the past two runnings of the King George and today at Kempton Park he is favourite to emulate his spectacular predecessor with three in a row.

Before I assess our chances of success, I shall attempt some of those elusive comparisons, for when I saw the two greys together last week during a promotion for the race at Gordon Richards's yard in Cumbria, one thing struck me forcibly. Whatever else they may do differently, Desert Orchid and One Man share a rare intelligence.

To some, this will be perplexing; to others, probably, a nonsense. Intelligent horses? How do we know? Well, a horse cannot demonstrate human intellectualism, of course, but this does not mean that one is not brighter, more alert, observant and — yes — intelligent, than another. The best horses usually have this mental sharpness, this ability to notice things you would not expect, though it has to be said that it is not always an advantage.

In Desert Orchid, no one watching him closely could fail to notice his alertness, his love of taking in everything around him. Even in advanced retirement, he briefly went missing at Greystoke last week and was discovered at the top end of the yard, highly frustrated that the string had gone out on the gallops without him. He is a venerable 18 now, but apparently as bright as ever.

One Man may not quite match the charisma of Dessie but he is no less intelligent. In his last race at



Head-to-head: Dunwoody is perfectly placed to match Desert Orchid, right, and One Man, left, who is favourite to complete his King George hat-trick today

Huntingdon, he was immensely impressive but, as we reached the finishing post, he cocked his ears towards the stands in an unusual way. I honestly believe he had been listening to the noise of the race commentary over the speakers and was puzzled at it tailing off.

A horse able to take in such peripheral sounds and emotions is obviously clever, in the right sense. Cleverness, when applied to a racehorse, can be a derogatory term and there have been those tempted to use it about One Man on the occasions — especially at Cheltenham in March — when he has failed to see out a race, indeed when he has gone from cruising to a painful crawl in barely a few strides.

To my knowledge, nobody connected with the horse has come up with the definitive explanation, but we all have our theories. I think back to his first King George, two winters ago. A frozen Christmas meant it had been switched to Sandown Park, early in January, and, if that was to happen now, the

theorists would say the stiff track and uphill finish were all against him. However, he showed no signs of stopping that day and went absolutely to his limit, his courage unquestionable.

He hit the front at the first fence down the back, straight and stayed there resolutely, finishing 14 lengths clear of a high-quality field. I simply wonder if that race somehow left a mark, mental or physical.

I will certainly not be looking to have him in front so far out today. The tactics will be agreed between the trainer and myself but we seldom differ. There are enough renowned front-runners in the field for us to get a lead and, hopefully, produce him where it matters. It will not be straightforward, though. The rarity of winning three successive King Georges is one adverse factor; so, too, is the presence of two more greys with outstanding recent credentials.

Suny Bay, perversely, impressed

me more on his comeback run at Haydock Park than when winning the Hennessy Gold Cup a fortnight later. There was no arguing with the way he strode up the straight at Newbury, though, and he will be a formidable rival.

Senior El Beiruti's season has been a fairy-tale for the Gloucestershire husband and wife who own and train him. He has startled us all by winning the two big autumn handicaps at Cheltenham in great style and he is a brilliant jumper. Do not discount Barton Bank, running as well as ever and jumping better. Adrian Maguire was very good on him in the Hennessy, very definite at the obstacles, and, of course, he has won this race before.



I shall be surprised if the winner comes from outside these four but this is no one-horse, One Man event. As ever, it will be fast and spectacular, the perfect post-Christmas cheer, this year even greyer than ever.

Today's cards, pages 26 and 27

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

**Lynne Truss at
Stamford Bridge**

**David Hands meets
a Lion at large**

BOXING DAY KINGS — HOW THE GREYS COMPARE			
			
DESERT ORCHID	ONE MAN		
Career records: 70 races 34 wins 11 seconds 8 thirds	Career records: 31 races 18 wins 3 seconds 2 thirds		
Big race victories: As well as four wins in the King George VI Chase (1986, 1988, 1989, 1990) Desert Orchid has triumphed in the Cheltenham Gold Cup (1989), Irish Grand National (1990) and Whitbread Gold Cup (1988).	Big race victories: Twice winner of the King George VI Chase, unusually in the same year of 1996 as the 1995 race was put back a month because of bad weather on Boxing Day, One Man also has the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup in 1994 to his credit.		



**Under the
skin of sport**

BOXING DAY FOOTBALL

United they stand in league of their own

Oliver Holt can
see no obvious
challenge to
Alex Ferguson's
men for another
season — at least

In recent years, at least, the song of delusion has remained the same. With the start of every season, the detractors have searched high and low for weaknesses in the structure of the Old Trafford fortress like Luke Skywalker and his rebel friends trying to pinpoint the flaw in the mother ship of the Empire. Like the Empire, though, the detractors have been made to feel The Force.

Once, a few seasons ago, Alex Ferguson was famously told by Alan Hansen that he would "never win anything with kids". His Manchester United side went on to achieve the double. This August, the critics wondered first whether United could possibly defend their championship without their great muse, Eric Cantona, then whether they would survive having lost their new captain, Roy Keane, to a serious knee injury.

United have just steamrollered on. Their excellence at home and abroad has been the dominant theme of the season so far. Nothing seems to be able to stop them. When any player, in any position, falls by the wayside because of injury or suspension, another is beckoned from the shadows and the machine rumbles on unhindered.

In Europe, United have embarrassed those cynics who still pay exaggerated heed to the reputations of the continental giants, by carrying all before them in the Champions' League. Their victory over Juventus at Old Trafford coupled with England's draw with Italy in Rome, which brought them automatic qualification for next year's World Cup, gave the game in this country a great shot in the arm.

With the domestic campaign now at its traditional halfway stage, United go into today's home game with Howard Kendall's struggling



The arrival of Sheringham, left, and the emergence of Scholes have helped Manchester United to maintain their dominance of the game

Everton side four points clear of the chasing pack. If the recent avalanche of goals has made that a redundant argument now.

If Cole has been the star of the show, his goals helping United to blitz their way through the Champions' League above Juventus in group B to a relatively effortless qualification for the quarter-finals of the competition, Paul Scholes has been the

established striker but Cole's recent avalanche of goals has made that a redundant argument now. If Cole has been the star of the show, his goals helping United to blitz their way through the Champions' League above Juventus in group B to a relatively effortless qualification for the quarter-finals of the competition, Paul Scholes has been the

injury to Keane, but Scholes has seized his chance. His neat goal in the home win over Juventus was a classic piece of clinical finishing, his passing has been breathtaking, his movement a joy to watch. With Scholes and Nicky Butt an unbeatable pairing in the centre of midfield, Ryan Giggs maturing into the superstar everyone hoped he would become and Gary Pallister enjoying a career in autumn, United are in gold, stretch their lead than see it reined in as winter turns to spring.

Arsenal, whose ageing side is already showing signs of weakening as the wear and tear of the season takes hold, nor Blackburn Rovers, who have been commendably resuscitated by Roy Hodgson, nor Liverpool, still resolutely underachieving, appear to have the strength in depth or the consistency to make a concerted effort to dethrone the champions.

Only Chelsea, with their growing squad and their trickle of promising youngsters, appear capable of providing a genuine threat. Their two games against United at Stamford Bridge in the next six weeks — the first in the FA Cup, the second in the FA Carling Premiership — will do much to decide the destination of the two main honours in the domestic game this season. Even though Dennis Wise has been outstanding and Gianluca Vialli is enjoying a limited renaissance, the inescapable conclusion is that Chelsea are one season short of winning the title away from United.

ly in midfield, in a way that United are not. If Rudi Gullit stays on as manager and is given more money to spend, next season could be the one in which West London celebrates.

For some, of course, all hope of rivalling United disappeared long ago. The managerial merry-go-round began, predictably, just as November dawned on the Premiership.

David Pleat, at Sheffield Wednesday, was the first to go, sacked after a calamitous defeat at Old Trafford. Gerry Francis was next at Tottenham Hotspur, although he gave the impression that he had had to hack saw through the shackles that Alan Sugar had fitted him with to get away.

Pleat will be back at Tottenham in the new year in some sort of general-manager role, overseeing the work of the somewhat eccentric Swiss disciplinarian, Christian Gross, the replacement for Francis. Their recruitment, though, was overshadowed by last week's arrival of Jürgen Klinsmann. The fact that man-

Their excellence at home and abroad has been the dominant theme of the season

ager, board and supporters appear to be pinning their hopes on a 33-year-old who has scored two goals during a miserable season with Sampdoria in Serie A seems indicative of an approach that could be described as papering over the cracks.

And then there is Barnsley. The club that everyone wrote off before the season, the club that yearned to prove the doubters wrong and show us that it was possible for a small club to survive in the Premiership jungle, is anchored at the foot of the table.

They are beginning to get to grips with the reality of life in the top flight, they even pulled off the shock of the season with a 1-0 win at Anfield. If there is still any hope left on the last day of the season, though, it is likely to be extinguished then: that is when Danny Wilson and his team play host to Manchester United.

Forest to sue over payment to referee

By RICHARD HOBSON

NOTTINGHAM Forest have carried out their threat to issue a writ against Anderlecht for compensation after the Belgian club admitted making a payment to the referee in the 1984 Uefa Cup semi-final. The club and the players involved in the tie are pressing separate claims for a total of around £2 million.

Flip Goemans, the Belgian lawyer acting on behalf of Forest and players, said that Anderlecht had been given three months to agree a financial settlement, before the deadline imposed by Forest expired on Christmas Eve. Forest believe they are entitled to £1.5 million in gate receipts, television coverage and other commercial spin-offs forfeited through missing the final against Tottenham Hotspur. The 16 players due win bonuses and subsequent improvements to their contracts.

Anderlecht were 2-0 down from the first leg, but won the second game 3-0 as Forest saw what appeared a legitimate goal by Paul Hart disallowed and a dubious penalty awarded against Kenny Swain by Guercio Muro, the referee.

Allegations of bribery surfaced last February when it emerged that Anderlecht were being blackmailed over the issue. Constant Vanden Stock, the former Anderlecht chairman, later admitted that Muro had been paid the equivalent of £18,000 the day after the game. Muro, from Spain, died in a car crash ten years ago.

Anderlecht subsequently told Uefa that the payment to Muro was intended as a loan. However, Uefa decided to ban Anderlecht from European competition for a year the next time they qualify. Forest claim they are entitled to the vacant place and await Uefa's decision.

Kidderminster in for difficult time

By WALTER GAMMIE

IN RECENT seasons Kidderminster Harriers' matches against Bromsgrove Rovers have been the Vauxhall Conference's biggest Boxing Day box-office attraction. A crowd of 6,081 flocked to Aggborough last season for an encounter that Kidderminster lost 2-1.

The relegation of Bromsgrove to the Dr Martens League might well have created a void for instant nostalgia for the five Christmas games gone by were it not for the descent of Hereford United from the Nationwide League.

"It's a big swap for us," Graham Allner, the Kidderminster manager, said. "Our record gate figure was set against Hereford United. Although Bromsgrove is just ten miles down the road and Hereford is 35 miles away, there is a great tradition which dates to when there were three big clubs in the area. Well, it was Worcester and Hereford first, with us emerging later on."

In these safety-conscious days — and with the capacity at Aggborough fixed at 6,237 — the New Year's Day meeting, match that ground record of 9,155, for an FA Cup first-round tie in 1948, but Allner reports Dave Reynolds, his chairman, breezily predicting a full house.

First, though, Kidderminster must go to Hereford, where the atmosphere prom-

ises to be highly charged. "They're on a cup run," Allner said. "The buzz you get from cup runs will ensure it will be a difficult fixture for us. There will be a big crowd, which will get behind them, and we expect we will have to defend very well. But we've got a bit of confidence and won't be going in like lambs to the slaughter."

That confidence is born from a conviction that after suffering a reaction to finishing runners-up to Macclesfield Town and losing Lee Hughes, who scored 30 goals in the Conference last season, and Marcus Bignot, their accomplished defender, to the Football League, Kidderminster's troubles have bottomed out at an uncomfortable seventeenth place in the table.

Allner has recently rebuilt a side that now boasts only four regulars from last season and last month brought in Mike Bignall, 21, from Morecambe to partner Ian Arnold, a seasoned Conference striker, in attack. "Mike's full of goals," Allner said. "His record is one every two matches."

Stalybridge Celtic, who have not won for nine matches, this week appointed Mel Sterland as their manager and Imre Varadi as his assistant. Their first assignment is a trip to Northwich Victoria. And Bromsgrove Rovers? They have to settle for the visit of Halesowen Town to the Victoria Ground.

Smith set to bring stability

DENIS SMITH could not have presented a greater contrast to Ray Harford, his predecessor, when he discussed his priorities as the ninth manager of West Bromwich Albion in ten years (Richard Hobson writes). Where Harford declined to sign a contract during his ten months at The Hawthorns and cited the distance from his home in Buckinghamshire as the reason he left for Queens Park Rangers, Smith immediately agreed a three-year deal, checked into a local hotel and began to scour the local property guide for permanent accommodation.

Moreover, Smith, who left Oxford United to take up the job on Tuesday evening, pledged to sell his home on the outskirts of Oxford, even though renovation work has only recently been completed. "I believe I have to live in the local area to do the job correctly," he said.

Smith is anxious to give Albion managerial stability. "I was at Sunderland for nearly five years, York City for five and Oxford for four, so I consider myself a loyal man," he said. Assessing the first division, Smith said: "Middlesbrough appear to be the best side and Sunderland have started to look strong. We can finish in the top two, but otherwise a play-off final at Wembley would be nice."

Russell Kempson on the uncertain future of the lower divisions

Poor relation fighting for slice of cake

AS THE FA Carling Premiership, dripping in cash and full of self-importance, continues to congratulate itself at every step, the Nationwide League gratefully grabs each morsel that falls from the high table. There are not many scraps left, hence the radical plans put forward by the Football League chairman at a meeting in London earlier this month.

Bizarrely, entitled Options Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Pluto, they include a 12-club superleague, a six-division format, extra points for teams leading at half-time, penalty shoot-outs to decide drawn games and relegation play-offs. The proposals will be voted on in two months.

When Graham Taylor, the World general manager, assumed a more hands-on role at Vicarage Road at the start of the season, more than a few eyebrows were raised. Had he really recovered from his torrid time tending the England left vegetable patch? Had he not left Wolverhampton Wanderers in similarly fraught circumstances?

When John Ward, the former Bristol Rovers manager, was appointed to succeed Joe Jordan at Bristol City in March, more than a few oaths were uttered. How could the Ashton Gate board appoint a man from the wrong side of town?

"We are acting to prevent the Premiership from leaving us high and dry," David Sheepshears, the League chairman, said. "We are, to an extent, masters of our own destiny. We will leave no stone unturned." Cynics have long since suggested that football's rule-makers exist on another planet but at least the problems are being addressed.

The squabble over the devaluing of the Coca-Cola Cup rumbles on, too, with the League justifiably indignant that Uefa, the sport's European governing body, should have taken away the prize of a Uefa Cup place for the winners of its knockout competition. And all because the FA



Premier League, which runs the Premiership, refuses to reduce its membership to 18. Again, the League has been active in trying to seek a solution. It has taken its case to the European Commission in Brussels and a verdict is expected in February, around the time of the two-legged Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals. "We remain confident of a favourable decision," Sheepshears said.

shanks, a dogged pursuer of justice, said.

Middlesbrough, Reading and Ipswich Town play in the quarter-finals early in the new year and, with Reading meeting Middlesbrough at Elm Park, the Nationwide League is guaranteed a representative in the last four. Ipswich face the more daunting task of taking on Chelsea at Portman Road.

In the first division, the crowd is gradually rising to the top. Middlesbrough, away at Huddersfield Town this afternoon, lead the way, after a tardy start, ahead of Nottingham Forest on goals scored. Tucked in nicely behind are Sheffield United and

Sunderland but Swindon Town and Bradford City are on the slide and West Bromwich Albion have yet to recover from Ray Harford's sudden departure.

Charlton Athletic are on a high of five wins in seven matches, struggling aside the drug-related problems that still seem to haunt them, while Wolverhampton Wanderers could emerge from the pack if Mark McGhee, for once, delivers what he promises.

Fernando Paganini, who has given Barry Fry, their ebullient manager, much to crow about — not that he needs an excuse — with Jimmy Quinn and Martin Carruthers forging an impressive 34-goal partnership. Fry will hope that Quinn, 38, does not choose to exercise a clause in his contract that stipulates he can leave if a suitable manager's job becomes available elsewhere.

John Beck continues to guide Lincoln onwards and upwards, although their unbeaten 18-match sequence in league and cups ended earlier this month and they also lost on penalties to Enfield, of the Unibond League, in an FA Cup second-round replay. Rotherham United, managed by Ronnie Moore, have risen from twentieth place to sixth and are inching closer to the front-runners.

For Macclesfield Town, the division newcomers, it is so far so good at home — eight wins, three draws in 11 matches — but rather less good on the road. They go to Darlington today still seeking to break their duck.

No relief in sight for sad Doncaster

IT IS a distressing tale from the pit of the Nationwide League third division. Doncaster Rovers have played 27 league and cup matches this season and have won only once. They have scored 19 goals and conceded 71; they have had four players sent off and have used four managers. They are going nowhere — unless bankruptcy gets them first — but the Vauxhall Conference.

Perhaps Rovers' plight was best summed up when only 580 spectators turned up for their Auto Windscreens Shield northern section first-round tie against Rochdale at Belle Vue on December 9. Harvey Cunningham, their defender, was dismissed for the second time this season and they lost 1-0.

Brighton, still homeless and rearing in Kent, Swansea City, Hull City and Darlington should maybe say a prayer that Doncaster do not go under before May, otherwise they could discover that their apparent safety net has been suddenly removed. Rovers' supporters — those that are left — are unlikely to receive much festive cheer from the visit of Mansfield Town this afternoon.

Doncaster Rovers have played 27 league and cup matches this season and have won only once. They have scored 19 goals and conceded 71; they have had four players sent off and have used four managers. They are going nowhere — unless bankruptcy gets them first — but the Vauxhall Conference.

Perhaps Rovers' plight was best summed up when only 580 spectators turned up for their Auto Windscreens Shield northern section first-round tie against Rochdale at Belle Vue on December 9. Harvey Cunningham, their defender, was dismissed for the second time this season and they lost 1-0.

Brighton, still homeless and rearing in Kent, Swansea City, Hull City and Darlington should maybe say a prayer that Doncaster do not go under before May, otherwise they could discover that their apparent safety net has been suddenly removed. Rovers' supporters — those that are left — are unlikely to receive much festive cheer from the visit of Mansfield Town this afternoon.

*FREE £10 BET

FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS staking \$25 or more using Switch, Delta or Solo bank or building society debit cards. RING TODAY BET TODAY 0800 44 40 40 (Minimum total investment per call £10. Over 18's only.) *Free bet is a £10 Correct Score bet on tonight's Aston Villa v Tottenham match. (Please place your bet and make your free bet selection within the same call.)



*LIVE BOXING DAY ACTION

CORRECT SCORE			DOUBLE RESULT			FIRST GOALSCORER		
VILLA	SCORE	SPURS	H/TIME	F/TIME		4/1...COLLYMORE (A)	9/2...MILOSEVIC (A)	11/2...JOACHIM (A)
6/1	-1.0	9/1	A. VILLA	A. VILLA	6/4	8/1...FERDINAND (T)	9/1...JENSEN (T)	10/1...DRAPER (A)
7/1	-2.0	20/1	A. VILLA	DRAW	14/1	11/1...GINOLA (T)	16/1...BHOOGU (A)	17/2...NO GOALSCORER
13/2	-2.1	16/1	A. VILLA	SPURS	40/1	Other players on request.	Own goals do not count.	
11/1	-3.0	50/1	DRAW	A. VILLA	4/1			
11/1	-3.1	40/1	DRAW	DRAW	9/2			
25/1	-3.2	33/1	SPURS	A. VILLA	9/1			
17/2	-0.4	17/2	SPURS	SPURS	25/1			
6/1	-1.1	6/1	SPURS	DRAW	14/1			
14/1	-2.2	14/1	SPURS	SPURS	8/1			

LATEST ODDS ON WILLIAM HILL TV TEXT *Text on CH4 1601/602/603

BOXING DAY FOOTBALL

Gullit must be made to see his future resides with Chelsea

Chelsea players hardly need any more incentives to play well at the moment. With so much silverware at stake and with the championship race bubbling away. There is, though, also the little matter of convincing Ruud Gullit that he does not need to look beyond Stamford Bridge when he considers his long-term future.

There has been a lot of speculation recently about Ruud's plans beyond the summer and the fact that he has yet to sign a new contract with Chelsea. All the players know is that he is here until the end of the season. There are no guarantees beyond that.

Ruud is his own man and he will make the decision that suits him and his family best. Who can blame him for that? I am confident, though, that when the time comes for him to make up his mind, he will see that Chelsea

is where his future happiness lies.

For starters, there is the joy he takes — like so many of us foreigners at Stamford Bridge — from living in London. It is a wonderful city with so much to explore and enjoy, and one of the biggest advantages for such a revered, and instantly recognisable, figure like Ruud is that you don't get pestered.

Sure, people recognise you walking down the street, but they rarely hassle you and it is such a big place that it is easy to keep your head down. Much more so, say, than somewhere like Milan.

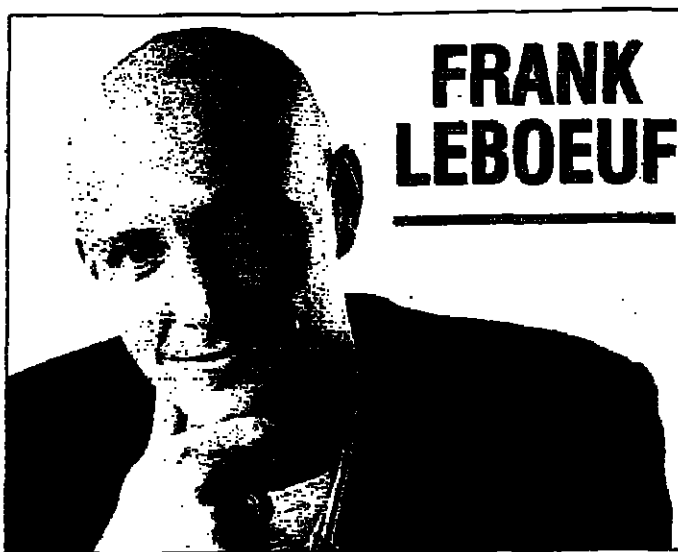
The other reason for Ruud to stay here is the football. He is such a perfectionist when it comes to the job and, while everything is going so well for us at the moment with a Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final, and the FA Cup, Coca-Cola Cup

and Premiership to fight for, he is the type who is always striving for improvement.

I honestly believe that, on our day, Chelsea can play the best football in the country but in Ruud's eyes, the job is only half done until we win the championship. That is the standard he insists is shared by the players.

It would be so very, very sad if Ruud decided to leave Chelsea because he is a man, and a manager, you cannot help but respect, a football legend. It was encouraging to hear him talk recently, though, of long-term plans for the club and I believe he can still see so much potential to explore here, on and off the pitch where the new stand is taking shape.

Yes, things are going very well for us all at Stamford Bridge, but hopefully there is much more to



FRANK
LEBOEUF

come. I am confident Ruud will be there when it happens.

World-class talent
West Ham fans probably do not realise it yet, but their club has just signed a player of world-class talent for nothing. I am talking about Bernard Lama, an old friend of mind and a colleague in the France team.

As a goalkeeper, Bernard is up there with the best and I believe he can be involved in the World Cup. Fabien Barthez, who plays for AS Monaco, is at present the first choice, but I know Aimé Jacquet,

the coach, rates Bernard very highly and hopefully this move to London will push his career back in the right direction.

It has been widely publicised that Bernard was banned for testing positive for cannabis, something that caused him much trouble in France, where he played for Paris Saint-Germain. He could have stayed there, but decided it would be better to have a clean start elsewhere after all the fuss.

Let me make it absolutely clear straightaway that I do not approve of drugs and, personally, would not want to go anywhere near

them. We all know their potentially harmful effects.

I find it amazing, though, that a footballer, or any sportsman, should be banned for smoking a drug that no one in their right mind would regard as performance enhancing. Of course, a footballer, or any member of the public, must expect a fine if they are caught with drugs, because that is what the law dictates.

It seems so incredibly harsh, though, that it should then lead to a player being suspended for weeks or months. It does not happen if they are found guilty of some other offence unrelated to the sport and, I repeat, no one would smoke a joint in the hope of playing better football. It is not cheating, so why should his career be punished?

It was still a silly mistake by Bernard and one he regrets. Hopefully, now, though, he will be able to concentrate on his career because he is a top-class player and a good team man.

It is not often that anyone of his ability becomes available. He has signed until the end of the season and this could be a big year for him with the World Cup coming up. I am confident West Ham have got themselves a bargain.

Fascinating signing
Another foreigner who has just joined we exiles in England — in

case you had not noticed! — is Jürgen Klinsmann and it has been fascinating to see the effect that he has already had at Tottenham Hotspur, where morale is now sky-high.

I played against Jürgen a couple of times when I was at Strasbourg and he was at Monaco so I know first-hand just how strong he is. I don't remember him diving, although that would be because he never had the chance — I made sure I always won the ball!

Although he is 33, he is a man who has always looked after his body — so I have no doubts that he can make a huge impact on the Premiership again. We do not play Spurs again until April, so I have plenty of time in which to learn his moves.

It will be interesting to see how Christian Gross fits him into the team because most people would have agreed that it was in defence that Tottenham really needed to sign new players.

I did not get much of a chance to speak to Jürgen when we were in France but it might be good to have a chat now. I know he takes a keen interest in the environment and travel and they are both topics close to my own heart. It is that curiosity and love of exploration that has brought us both to England. The same could be said of Ruud and Bernard. It is a joy for us all to be here.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)	PLAYED	POINTS	GOAL DIFF	HOME					AWAY					LAST 10 MATCHES W-D-L	CURRENT STANDING
				W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1. MANCHESTER UTD (1)	19	43	+32	8	1	0	28	4	5	3	2	17	9	8-1-1	W5
2. BLACKBURN ROVERS (2)	19	39	+17	7	2	1	23	10	4	4	1	13	9	7-2-1	W3
3. CHELSEA (3)	19	38	+26	6	1	1	16	6	6	1	4	29	13	7-1-2	W1
4. LEEDS UTD (4)	19	34	+9	5	2	3	15	11	5	2	2	13	8	6-3-1	W1
5. LIVERPOOL (6)	18	31	+14	6	0	3	20	9	3	4	2	11	8	6-1-3	W2
6. ARSENAL (5)	18	30	+11	5	2	2	19	7	3	4	2	13	14	3-3-4	L1
7. DERBY COUNTY (7)	19	29	+6	6	3	0	19	5	2	2	6	14	22	3-4-3	D3
8. LEICESTER CITY (8)	19	27	+5	3	5	3	12	10	4	1	3	11	8	2-3-5	L2
9. NEWCASTLE UTD (9)	18	26	-2	5	3	3	12	11	2	2	3	8	11	2-5-3	L1
10. WEST HAM UTD (10)	19	25	-6	7	0	1	17	6	1	1	9	8	25	4-0-6	L1
11. WIMBLEDON (11)	18	23	-2	3	2	5	11	14	3	3	2	8	7	4-2-4	D1
12. ASTON VILLA (12)	19	22	-5	4	2	3	12	13	2	2	6	8	12	3-3-4	D1
13. CRYSTAL PALACE (15)	19	21	-8	0	3	5	5	14	5	3	3	12	11	2-4-4	D1
14. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (13)	19	21	-12	5	1	4	18	17	1	2	6	13	26	5-0-5	L2
15. SOUTHAMPTON (17)	19	20	-6	5	1	4	17	14	1	1	7	6	15	5-1-4	D1
16. COVENTRY CITY (14)	19	20	-8	3	6	1	14	10	1	2	6	3	15	2-3-5	L1
17. BOLTON WANDERERS (16)	19	20	-13	3	5	1	8	6	1	3	6	8	23	3-3-4	L1
18. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (18)	19	19	-15	4	2	4	11	14	1	2	6	6	18	3-0-7	W1
19. EVERTON (19)	19	17	-10	3	2	4	11	13	1	3	6	6	14	2-3-5	W1
20. BARNLEY (20)	19	14	-33	2	2	5	10	20	2	0	8	7	30	2-2-6	L1

ATTACK		Goals scored		Avg	
1. Chelsea	45	2.37			
2. Manchester Utd	45	2.37			
3. Blackburn	36	1.89			
4. Arsenal	32	1.78			
5. Derby	31	1.74			
6. Liverpool	31	1.72			
7. Sheffield Wed	31	1.63			
8. Leeds	28	1.47			
9. West Ham	25	1.32			
10. Leicester	23	1.21			
11. Southampton	23	1.21			
12. Newcastle	20	1.11			
13. Wimbledon	19	1.06			
14. Aston Villa	20	1.05			
15. Barnsley	17	0.89			
16. Coventry	17	0.89			
17. Crystal Palace	17	0.89			
18. Everton	17	0.89			
19. Tottenham	17	0.89			
20. Bolton	16	0.84			

SCORING TRENDS		Goals per half		1st		2nd	
1. Arsenal	20	12					
2. Aston Villa	7	13					
3. Barnsley	25	13					
4. Blackburn	6	10					
5. Bolton	18	27					
6. Chelsea	7	10					
7. Crystal Palace	9	8					
8. Derby	14	19					
9. Everton	6	11					
10. Leeds	15	13					
11. Leicester	8	15					
12. Liverpool	8	23					
13. Manchester Utd	17	28					
14. Newcastle	10	10					
15. Sheffield Wed	14	17					
16. Southampton	8	15					
17. Tottenham	10	17					
18. West Ham	7	18					
19. Wimbledon	6	13					

SCORERS		Goals	
1. Balon (Derby)	11		
2. Cole (Manchester Utd)	11		
3. Harrison (West Ham)	11		
4. Sutton (Blackburn)	10		
5. Wright (Arsenal)	10		
6. Gardner (Blackburn)	10		
7. Wallace (Leeds)	9		
8. Blake (Bolton)	7		
9. Carbone (Sheffield Wed)	7		
10. Davies (Southampton)	7		
11. Di Canzio (Sheffield Wed)	7		
12. Dublin (Coventry)	7		
13. Fowler (Liverpool)	7		
14. Sheringham (Manchester Utd)	7		
15. Zola (Chelsea)	7		
16. Barlow (West Ham)	6		
17. Fletcher (Coventry)	6		
18. McManis (Liverpool)	6		
19. Redfern (Barnsley)	6		
20. Speed (Everton)	6		
21. Wanhope (Derby)	6		

CAUTIONS		Cards issued		Yellow		Red	
1. Leeds Utd	47						
2. Everton	42						
3. Arsenal	42						
4. Coventry	40						
5. Bolton	37						
6. C. Palace	39						
7. Derby	40						
8. Chelsea	36						
9. West Ham	36						
10. Blackburn	33						
11. Newcastle	32						
12. Sheffield Wed	30						
13. Manchester Utd*	31						
14. Barnsley	30						
15. Liverpool	28						
16. Tottenham	27						
17. Southampton	28						
18. Leicester	24						
19. Wimbledon	25						
20. Aston Villa	20						

REFEREES		Cards issued		Yellow		Red	
1. G. Willard	10						
2. M. Reed	8						
3. G. Poll	11						
4. P. Dunkin	12						
5. U. Rennie	11						
6. G. Barber	10						
7. P. Alcock	10						
8. J. Winter	11						
9. D. Ellery	10						
10. S. Dunn	8						
11. F. Jones	9						
12. M. Bodenham	9						
13. A. White	11						
14. G. Ashby	10						
15. M. Riley	10						
16. K. Burge	9						
17. N. Barry	10						
18. D. Gallagher	10						
19. S. Lodge	10						

DEFENCE		Goals conceded		Avg	
1. Manchester Utd	13	0.68			
2. Liverpool	17	0.94			
3. Leicester	18	0.95			
4. Blackburn	19	1.00			
5. Chelsea	19	1.00			
6. Leeds	19	1.00			
7. Arsenal	21	1.17			
8. Wimbledon	21	1.17			
9. Newcastle	22	1.22			
10. Aston Villa	25	1.32			
11. Barnsley	26	1.32			
12. Crystal Palace	25	1.32			
13. Derby	27	1.42			
14. Everton	27	1.42			
15. Bolton	29	1.53			
16. Southampton	29	1.53			
17. Tottenham	31	1.63			
18. Tottenham	32	1.68			
19. Sheffield Wed	43	2.26			
20. Barnsley	50	2.63			

CLEAN SHEETS		Clean sheets		Failed to score	
1. Arsenal	7				
2. Aston Villa	5				
3. Barnsley	3				
4. Blackburn	8				
5. Bolton	7				
6. Chelsea	8				
7. Coventry	6				
8. Crystal Palace	5				
9. Derby	6				
10. Everton	6				
11. Leeds Utd	7				
12. Leicester	7				
13. Liverpool	7				
14. Manchester Utd	11				
15. Newcastle	5				
16. Sheffield Wed	4				
17. Southampton	3				
18. Tottenham	6				
19. West Ham	2				
20. Wimbledon	4				

BOXING DAY RECORDS		1992-3		1993-4		1
--------------------	--	--------	--	--------	--	---

Which bowler known as 'Chicken George' completed a hat-trick against England?

JANUARY

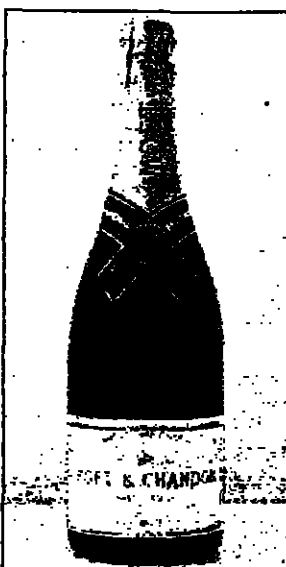
1. Which cyclist, who won the Tour de France five times, announced his retirement?
2. Which weightlifter, who won a record three Olympic titles, also retired?
3. How many matches in the one-day cricket series against England did Zimbabwe win?
4. Which bowler, known as "Chicken George", took a hat-trick in the third one-day match between England and Zimbabwe?
5. Which Briton, who was banned for four years for taking anabolic steroids, returned to top-class athletics by beating Colin Jackson in a 60-metres sprint in Birmingham?
6. Of whom was it said: "Whoever follows will not have the same charisma and popularity. There is no one in Europe who could follow him?"
7. Who said: "I am doing what is best for me," as he left his job as chief executive of a British sports body?
8. Whose rugby union career was interrupted by a kidney disorder?
9. When Martina Hingis won the Australian Open, aged 16 years and three months, she became the youngest tennis player to win a grand-slam singles title since which British player?

FEBRUARY

10. Who knocked Manchester United out of the FA Cup?
11. What was the job of Chris Doig immediately before he became the chief executive of New Zealand Cricket Inc?
12. Which heavyweight boxer said after losing a world title bout: "Drugs and alcohol are a disease. I can't control the disease. I speak to my drugs counsellor daily?"
13. Who scored the only goal in the England v Italy World Cup qualifying match at Wembley?
14. In which sport did a South Africa national coach resign after allegedly making racist remarks?
15. Which club did Roy Hodgson leave to become manager of Blackburn Rovers?
16. What fate befell Alberto Tomba when he was defending his giant slalom title at the world championships in Sestriere?
17. Where did Tomba finish in the slalom?

MARCH

18. Who won the five nations' international between England and France at Twickenham?
19. Which jockey, winner of 18 Classics, announced his retirement from racing?
20. Which triple jumper, who was only included in the Great Britain team when she threatened legal action against her original omission, won a silver medal in the world indoor championships in Paris?
21. Which two FA Carling Premiership footballers were asked by Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, to make a public reconciliation after an on-field clash?
22. Oxford and Cambridge



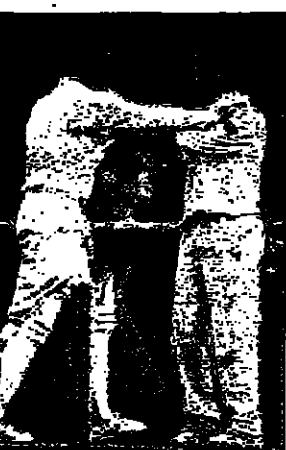
universities celebrated their centenary boxing match in 1997. In the early days, the annual fixture consisted of contests in boxing and which other sport?

APRIL

23. Which horse won the Cheltenham Gold Cup?
24. In the five nations' championship, which two countries conceded more points than ever before?
25. Which university won the 143rd Boat Race?

MAY

26. Which footballer, who plays for an Italian club, paid the travel costs of his country's national team to play a World Cup qualifying game in Africa?
27. Which horse won the Grand National?
28. Who beat Manchester United in the European Cup semi-finals?
29. Which international sports event, staged annually in Britain, had entries from 74 member states?



A. Which cricketers went bat in a NatWest Trophy semi-final?

30. How many Englishmen were chosen by Wisden among their five Cricketers of the Year?
31. Of whom was it said by a previous winner of the event: "This guy, he's in a trance. I think we can all go home now?"
32. Who scored the winner for Leicester City in the Coca-Cola Cup final replay?
33. Of whom did John Major say: "It wasn't just the game he played. It was the way he played it. Quite literally, he is

The Times presents today the traditional festive challenge — the Quiz of the Sporting Year.

Test your knowledge on the milestones and misfortunes that made 1997 such a year to remember and you may be the winner of a methuselah of Moët & Chandon champagne. The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn — or if necessary the entrant with the most correct answers drawn — will receive the champagne, worth £250. The six runners-up will receive Visions of Football, a celebration of the work of the Allsport photographic agency. Visions of Football is published by Andre Deutsch at £14.99. Closing date is Friday, January 9, 1998

Compiled by John Goodbody

irreplaceable and the way he played will last for as long as the game of cricket itself."

JUNE

34. Which American basketball player wrote in his autobiography that he wanted to change his name to "Orgasm"?
35. Who won the world snooker championship?
36. What species of fish was refused as a record after being caught in an Essex pond, weighing 99lb and being 7ft in length, unless it could be proved that the lake was stocked legally?
37. How many tries were scored in the Pilkington Cup final at Twickenham?
38. Which make of car won the Monaco Grand Prix for the first time since 1981?
39. Which former Olympic athletics finalist helped Chelsea to prepare for the FA Cup Final?
40. Which jockey was banned for four weeks for taking an amphetamine?
41. Which American female runner was found to have been allowed to compete in the 1996 Olympics despite having allegedly failed a drugs test?
42. Who became the youngest England cricketer for 48 years?

JULY

43. Over what distance did Donovan Bailey and Michael Johnson meet in a race to decide which athlete was the faster sprinter?
44. Which Shropshire and former Warwickshire all-rounder was banned from professional cricket for 22 months for taking cocaine?
45. Who wrote on the front of her T-shirt "Power is nothing" and on the back the words "Without control" after causing an upset in the French Open tennis championships?
46. Which England bowler took five wickets as Australia were bowled out for 118 on the opening day of the first Test at Edgbaston?
47. Which England batsman made 207 in the first Test?
48. Who won the men's singles title at the French Open tennis championships?
49. Which horse won the Derby?
50. Who became the first Briton to receive a peerage for his services to sport?



B. Mike Tyson puts the bite on Evander Holyfield, but in which round was he disqualified?

AUGUST

51. In which round of the men's singles at Wimbledon did Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski lose?
52. Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde won the men's doubles again at Wimbledon. How many consecutive years have the pair won the title?
53. To which club did Juninho move from Middlesbrough?
54. Who won the third rugby union international between the British Isles and South Africa?

55. The thirtieth anniversary of the death of which British cyclist on the Tour de France was commemorated on July 13?
56. Who finished sixth in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone, so securing his first points of the Formula One season?
57. Which county won the Benson and Hedges Cup final at Lord's?
58. Who was controversially not picked for the individual 400 metres in Britain's team for the world athletics championships?
59. Which former winner had

- a first round of 92, 21 over par, before withdrawing from the Open golf championship?
60. Which country produced a Tour de France winner for the first time?

SEPTEMBER

61. How many gold medals did Britain win at the world athletics championships in Athens?
62. Which Manchester United player had his name misspelt on his shirt for the Charity Shield at Wembley?
63. Who, in Premiership foot-

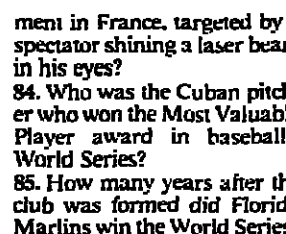


ball matches, are sponsored by Red Card?

64. Which country did João Havelange, the FIFA president, threaten to expel from international football if it introduced legislation about the administration of the game?
65. Who broke Sebastian Coe's 800 metres world record?
66. Which country won the Admiral's Cup for the first time for 28 years?
67. Which British swimmer won the European 200 metres freestyle title?
68. Who said in Seville: "I'm very, very proud of what I have done here. I don't accept that I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't. I have never felt like I wanted to quit this."

OCTOBER

69. Which Spanish golfer was controversially excluded from the Europe Ryder Cup team when he refused to confirm his fitness?
70. Which country initially decided to continue staging a World Cup qualifying game on the day of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales?
71. Which city was awarded the 2004 Olympic Games?
72. Which county won the NatWest Trophy final at Lord's?
73. Who beat Greg Rusedski in the men's singles final at the US Open?
74. Who remains the last Briton to win a grand-slam men's singles title?
75. Who was booed before the kick-off between England and Moldova at Wembley after predicting that England would not win the World Cup?
76. Which British boxer said about his return to his ring under a new promoter: "In the past, I always wanted to please myself. But now I'm going to please the fans. To do that I'm prepared to fight the best in the world."
77. Who won the Ryder Cup?



ment in France, targeted by a spectator shining a laser beam in his eyes?

84. Who was the Cuban pitcher who won the Most Valuable Player award in baseball's World Series?
85. How many years after the club was formed did Florida Marlins win the World Series?
86. In which sport did a match between Marie Davies and Marie Leefe make history?
87. Who was sacked as manager of Sheffield Wednesday?
88. Which club knocked Liverpool out of the UEFA Cup?
89. Who scored a hat-trick for Manchester United against Feyenoord in Rotterdam in the European Cup Champions' League?
90. Which former international marathon runner represented Britain in a world powerlifting championship?
91. Who accepted an invitation to become the honorary patron of France Cricket, the governing body in that country?
92. In which round did Evander Holyfield stop Michael Moore for the WBA and IBF heavyweight titles?
93. Which town simultaneously had football clubs whose men's team were bottom of the Nationwide League and top of the Women's Premier League?
94. Which England rugby union player stood nose-to-nose with Norman Hewitt during the haka before the match against the All Blacks at Old Trafford?

NOVEMBER

95. Which country will England play in their first game in the 1998 World Cup finals in France?

DECEMBER

96. In which sport did New Zealand beat England 47-35?
97. Which boxer returned to the ring at the age of 38 and outpointed Vinny Pazienza, of the United States, in a super-middleweight bout?
98. Which former Leeds United and Scotland international footballer died this month?
99. Cambridge won the University rugby union match. How many of this annual fixture have they now won in succession?
100. Which family threatened to pull out of British horse racing because of the sport's financial situation?



C. Which goalkeeper blamed his failings on an addiction to video games?

HOW TO ENTER THE QUIZ OF THE SPORTING YEAR

FILL IN your answers on the entry form and send it, with your name, address and daytime telephone number, to: Quiz of the Sporting Year, Sports Department, The Times, 1, Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Friday January 9, 1998. The prize will go to the sender of the first all-correct entry — or, if necessary, the entrant with the most correct answers — drawn from those received by the closing date. The Sports Editor's decision is final and correspondence will not be entered into. The winners and solutions will be published on Tuesday, January 13, 1998. The competition is not open to employees of News International, their relatives or agents.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
25. _____
26. _____
27. _____
28. _____
29. _____
30. _____
31. _____
32. _____

33. _____
34. _____
35. _____
36. _____
37. _____
38. _____
39. _____
40. _____
41. _____
42. _____
43. _____
44. _____
45. _____
46. _____
47. _____
48. _____
49. _____
50. _____
51. _____
52. _____

53. _____
54. _____
55. _____
56. _____
57. _____
58. _____
59. _____
60. _____
61. _____
62. _____
63. _____
64. _____
65. _____
66. _____
67. _____
68. _____
69. _____
70. _____
71. _____
72. _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POST CODE _____
DAYTIME TELEPHONE No. _____

73. _____
74. _____
75. _____
76. _____
77. _____
78. _____
79. _____
80. _____
81. _____
82. _____
83. _____
84. _____
85. _____
86. _____
87. _____
88. _____
89. _____
90. _____
91. _____
92. _____
93. _____
94. _____
95. _____
96. _____
97. _____
98. _____
99. _____
100. _____
A. _____
B. _____
C. _____

EMPTON PARK
N-LINE RACECARD

Lake Kariba to sink Kadastrof

KEMPTON PARK CHANNEL 4

1.10: Forest Ivory was the best of these by some way over hurdles and it looks as though David Nicholson's well-regarded New Zealand-bred could be even better over fences. Since being stepped up to three miles, his jumping has improved and the form of his latest success at Bangor was boosted when the runner-up, Cash Flow, beat Spring Gale at Doncaster. Fiddling The Facts made a successful debut over fences at Lingfield when defeating Ottawa (who previously beat Eulogy at Worcester).



TODAY'S RACING ON TELEVISION

surface. With a strong pace likely to be set by the front-running Noble Colours, this could be too much of a stamina test. Kingsfold Pet, sharper for a run over fences behind Kadastrof, is well handicapped on his form of two years ago and is a confirmed mudlark. The Lady Herries-trained Tibetan has obvious claims after completing a double at Cheltenham when getting the better of Barna Boy. That form should give the in-form Nicky Henderson a clue as to the chances of Serenus, who won comfortably at Huntingdon on his seasonal reappearance despite looking backward. Gelded since last season, he is open to further improvement.



Nicholson: fine chance

ter) and she should frank the form on 7lb worse terms. The biggest danger could be Bengers Moor, winner of three point-to-points, who made an encouraging chasing debut behind Wise King at Sandown and is entitled to improve for the run.

1.45: Fleet Spring, a winner on the Flat last season and beaten only three lengths in the Cambridgeshire, is sure to attract support, having won here over course and distance. Although not disgraced on soft ground on his hurdling debut, the best performances have been achieved on a faster

2.20: see facing page

2.55: With Zabadai proving a shade disappointing, this looks to be a match between Kadastrof and Lake Kariba. Both love the mud, but preference is for Lake Kariba, who had little more than a schooling session when winning at Exeter last Saturday. The Paul Nicholls-trained runner had been a few kilos overweight so should be on here. Kadastrof had to work quite hard to beat Charming Girl on ground which was arguably too lively at Ludlow last time and is better judged on his course and distance success here in November.

RICHARD EVANS

Sparky Gayle seeks return to form

By CHRIS McGRATH

APPROACHING half past two this afternoon, bookmakers will be busy revising their Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup prices - depending on the valour, or otherwise, with which Sun Bay and the like have just acquitted themselves in the Pertemps King George VI Chase. They would do well, however, not to be distracted from proceedings also underway at Wetherby, where Sparky Gayle carries top weight in the Rowland Meyrick Chase.

Sparky Gayle's impressive success in the Cathcart Chase last March not only crowned an exemplary first season over fences, in which he won all six races. For many, it also foreshadowed his return to the Festival in the spring, for the Gold Cup itself.

Such aspirations made him look a compelling proposition when he reappeared last month, carrying just 10st 2lb in the Murphy's Gold Cup. While hindsight now permits one to think better of his fourth to Senior El Beduini who has since confirmed himself greatly improved - the fact is that he no longer resembled a Gold Cup horse on his return to the Scottish borders.

In common with many of his stablemates in Lockerbie, however, Sparky Gayle proved to be suffering from an infection. Colin Parker, his trainer, is now optimistic that he can resume what had previously been a sustained record of progress. "He wasn't

right that day," he said. "Most of mine have been having problems, but the blood tests are okay and he has been working well enough."

Sparky Gayle has yet to have his stamina tested at today's distance, which he obviously needs to rely on to develop into a Gold Cup horse. "I think he'll get the trip," Parker said. "But now it's a long time again since he has run. And he has to give a lot of weight away."

Kempton and Wetherby apart, the Boxing Day programme is more about quantity than quality. Nonetheless, provincial courses thrive on days like this, when rural Britain clears its head in the raw outdoors - and tries to retrieve Christmas expenses.

With horseboxes heading to all points of the compass, journeyman jockeys pick up rides for top trainers, while local yards focus on their favourite courses. Huntingdon regulars, for instance, will be keeping an eye on Occold and Ernest William, from Geoff Hubbard's stable.



Sparky Gayle hopes to make up for his disappointing Cheltenham run at Wetherby today

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER
1.00 For Cathal, 1.30 Dark Oak, 2.00 Chipped Out, 2.30 Kidrummy Castle, 3.00 Brancher, 3.30 Diamond Beach.

GOING: SOFT

1.00 RED OYON NOVICES HURDLE (2.35, 3m 110yd) (7 runners)

- 1-21 BIRKENHEAD 10 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10
- 2-21-1 FOR CATHAL 20 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10
- 3-103 MELL-DOTT 17 (5) F. M. Smith 11-10
- 4-103-1 ALBERT 20 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10
- 5-103-2 FOREVER 20 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10
- 6-103-3 KIDRUMMY CASTLE 10 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10
- 7-103-4 BRANCHER 10 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

WETHERBY

THUNDERER
1.245 Joe Shaw, 1.15 Ham N' Eggs, 1.50 Katak, 2.25 Colonel In Chief, 2.55 Chief Minister, 3.25 Victoria Lane.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

12.45 BOXING DAY NOVICES HURDLE (2.35, 3m 110yd) (13 runners)

- 1-103-1 JOE SHAW 20 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10
- 2-103-2 HAM N' EGGS 20 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10
- 3-103-3 KATAK 20 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10
- 4-103-4 COLONEL IN CHIEF 20 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10
- 5-103-5 CHIEF MINISTER 20 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10
- 6-103-6 VICTORIA LANE 20 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10
- 7-103-7 BOXING DAY NOVICES HURDLE 20 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10
- 8-103-8 BOXING DAY NOVICES HURDLE 20 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10
- 9-103-9 BOXING DAY NOVICES HURDLE 20 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10
- 10-103-10 BOXING DAY NOVICES HURDLE 20 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10
- 11-103-11 BOXING DAY NOVICES HURDLE 20 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10
- 12-103-12 BOXING DAY NOVICES HURDLE 20 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10
- 13-103-13 BOXING DAY NOVICES HURDLE 20 (5) M. S. Smith 11-10

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy, 11-4 Brancher.

5-4 For Cathal, 6-4 Birkdale, 7-4 M. S. Smith, 8-4 Kidrummy, 9-4 Brancher, 10-4 Kidrummy,

protective kit
may create
more danger

Enter the league and win £10,000

Do you have the skill to choose a team and win the FA Cup league?

A £10,000 prize is up for grabs for the winner of the brand-new FA Cup league, a league within the ITF.

Entrants to ITF will automatically score points in the FA Cup league when the players in their team compete in the FA/Tennents Cup rounds. From January 3, English Premiership players will begin the knockout and January 24 sees the start of the Tennents Cup round involving Scottish premier division teams.

This is your chance to choose a team specifically for the FA Cup league. All players start scoring when the cup rounds involving English and Scottish premier divisions begin. All teams will be allocated transfers to use at their own discretion but remember, the sooner you enter the more transfers your team will be allocated.

Any team in the ITF before 12 noon on December 13 received 20 extra transfers in

addition to their present allocation. From now on, all new teams will receive 20 transfers for the duration of the season. Postal entries must be received by Tuesday December 30 and telephone entries by 10am on Saturday January 3 in order to score points from the beginning of the FA Cup league competition. Entrants must be 18 years or over.

By competing in the FA Cup league, your players will automatically score points for matches played in the English and Scottish premier divisions during the 1997-98 football season as well and, if appropriate, in the mini leagues — students' or women's.

By scoring points in the ITF, your team could win the monthly prizes of £1,000, a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and a pair of tickets to a premier league match by scoring the most points in any one month. The mini league (student's and women's) also carry monthly prizes.

PREMIERSHIP CLUBS IN FA CUP DRAW

Portsmouth v Aston Villa
 Arsenal v Port Vale
 Leicester City v Northampton Town
 Luton United v Oxford United
 Everton v Newcastle United
 Liverpool v Coventry City
 West Ham United v Derby
 Derby County v Scunthorpe
 Ipswich Town v Plymouth
 Crystal Palace v Scunthorpe
 Millwall v Sheffield Wednesday
 Charlton v Manchester United
 Walsingham v Wrexham
 Stockport Rangers v Millon Athletic
 Barnsley v Bolton Wanderers
 Not to be played on January 3 and 4

[illegible]

THE IFFA CUP LEAGUE

£10,000 to the winner



HOW TO PLAY

Study the Cup draw (the Scottish draw will be made in January) and the list of players. Select your team as follows:

You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.

You must pick 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.

You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your team must be made up of 12 individuals at any one time but you may transfer your players in and out of your team as you wish, according to your transfer allocation.

You may enter as many teams as you wish.

HOW TO ENTER BY POST

Once you have selected your team, simply complete the entry form and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to Times Newspapers to the address on the application form. Entries from outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are £10 sterling and may only be made by post.

HOW TO ENTER BY TELEPHONE

0891 405 011
(Republic of Ireland +44 990 100 308)

Once you have chosen your team, call the entry hotline, using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and follow the step-by-step instructions. *You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager. You will be asked whether you wish to enter one of the mini leagues (women's or students') if appropriate. If so, do so as directed on the telephone. You must speak the name of your team (no more than 16 characters), your name, address with postcode and your daytime telephone number. Finally, you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) and a number to call. You will be asked to speak the number as you will need your PIN for making transfers and checking your team score. (A new team will score points on future games in the ITF and mini league.) Calls last about eight minutes and cost 50p per minute (calls made from a pay phone cost approximately double).*

No enter call

0891 405 0111

(Republic of Ireland: +44 990 100 303)

HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

TEAM NAME (Up to 15 characters)

Goalkeeper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full back	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full back	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Central defender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Central defender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midfielder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midfielder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midfielder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midfielder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Striker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Striker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

First Name _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ **Daytime Tel** _____

Cheque / PO No. _____

This year ITF incorporates separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry.

☐ Women's League ☐ Student League

Entrants must be 18 or over to play in the ITF league, the Women's league and the Students' league.

Which age group are you? (TICK BOX) 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+ ☐

How often do you read The Sunday Times? Less than once a month ☐ 1-2 times a month ☐ 3-4 times a month ☐

How often do you read The Times? Less than once a week ☐ 1-3 times a week ☐ 4-6 times a week ☐

Do you have a PC at home? Yes ☐ No ☐ If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers, please tick box ☐

Send your entry with £2 entry fee (entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland £10 sterling) to: The Times Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Score	Price \$
10101	J. Laighton	Abolition	2.00
10201	D. Seaman	Animal	5.00
10301	M. Borden	Antarctica	3.00
10401	D. Watson	Barrington	1.00
10501	T. Ransom	Blackburn Rivers	1.50
10601	K. Brereton	Bohlin Wanderers	1.00
10701	S. Kerr	Celtic	4.00
10702	J. Gould	Chelms	2.50
10801	E. De Cooy	Chinook	3.00
10901	S. Gaspard	Curvature City	1.50
11001	K. Miller	Crystal Palace	0.25
11002	M. Neum	Crystal Palace	1.00
11101	K. Wain	Darby County	1.50
11201	S. Dykstra	Durston United	2.00
11301	J. Westman	Durhamshire	1.00
11401	M. Soedel	Easton	2.00
11501	G. Hoesner	Edwards	3.50
11601	C. Field	Elmston	1.50
11602	O. Gottliebsson	Hibbiken	1.50
11701	D. Laskov	Hibbiken	1.50
11801	N. Marley	Lands United	1.00
11901	R. Kofner	Lewiston City	3.00
12001	M. Kofner	Lewiston City	3.50
12101	S. Schuchel	Manchester United	3.00
12201	R. Hoyle	Marshall	3.00
12301	S. Green	Newcastle United	3.00
12401	G. Goren	Rangers	5.00
12501	E. Swanson	Shelwell Wednesday	2.00
12601	P. Jones	Southern	1.00
12701	A. Jones	St. Johnstone	0.50
12801	I. Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
12901	M. Minkola	West Ham United	2.00
13001	H. Quinn	Wimbledon	2.00

FULL BACKS

Cash	Name	Takes	Price List
20201	L. Dobson	Armenia	3.00
20202	W. Wetherburn	Armenia	3.00
20203	E. Peltz	Armenia	3.00
20204	S. Wharight	Aston Villa	2.50
20205	S. Grayson	Aston Villa	2.50
20206	S. Wharight	Aston Villa	2.50
20207	N. Seddon	Barnsley	0.50
20208	N. Thompson	Barnsley	0.50
20209	D. Harnard	Barnsley	1.00
20210	R. Kewen	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
20211	P. Valery	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
20212	R. Cox	Blackburn Rovers	2.00
20213	M. Whitford	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
20214	R. Elliott	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
20215	T. Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	0.50
20216	J. Taylor	Bolton Wanderers	0.50
20217	J. Phillips	Celtic	3.00
20218	T. McKelvey	Celtic	3.00
20219	J. McKelvey	Celtic	3.00
20220	D. Paterson	Chelsea	3.00
20221	G. La Serna	Chelsea	4.00
20222	C. Galsworthy	Chelsea	2.00
20223	F. Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00
20224	J. Sharpes	Coveントリー City	1.00
20225	M. Hall	Coveントリー City	1.00
20226	R. Nilsson	Coveントリー City	1.00
20227	D. Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50
20228	M. Eshertry	Crystal Palace	1.50
20229	J. Smith	Crystal Palace	1.50
20230	C. Powell	Derby County	1.50
20231	D. Paine	Derby County	1.50
20232	G. Howett	Derby County	1.50
20233	L. Marshall	Everton	2.50
20234	E. Barnes	Everton	1.50
20235	V. Plesham	Everton	1.50
20236	M. Ward	Everton	1.50
20237	G. Locke	Hearts	1.50
20238	D. Kerr	Kilmarnock	2.50
20239	L. Leach	Leeds United	1.00
20240	D. Richardson	Leeds United	2.50
20241	S. Cripps	Leeds United	2.50
20242	P. Bigness	Liverpool	3.00
20243	J. Wallace	Liverpool	3.00
20244	R. Jones	Liverpool	3.00
20245	D. Irvine	Manchester United	3.00
20246	G. Neville	Manchester United	3.00
20247	P. Neville	Manchester United	3.00
20248	N. Webster	Manchester United	3.00
20249	W. Harton	Newcastle United	3.00
20250	J. Burroughs	Newcastle United	3.00
20251	S. Pearce	Newcastle United	3.00
20252	A. Cleland	Newcastle United	3.00
20253	S. Stanslaus	Rangers	3.00
20254	P. Blaxland	Rangers	2.00
20255	N. Nelson	Sheff Wednesbury	3.00
20256	J. Dodd	Sheff Wednesbury	2.00
20257	J. Banell	Southampton	0.75
20258	J. Gifford	Southampton	1.00
20259	T. Jones	Southampton	0.75
20260	C. Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
20261	J. Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
20262	J. Edwards	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
20263	A. Danks	West Ham United	1.50
20264	S. Crier	West Ham United	1.50
20265	J. Ingleby	West Ham United	1.50
20266	P. Brasher	West Ham United	1.50

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
30101	B O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.00
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	2.00
30202	M Kewen	Arsenal	2.00
30203	G Grimsdell	Arsenal	2.00
30204	S Gould	Arsenal	2.00
30201	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00
30202	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50
30502		Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30504	S Hanchett	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30601	G Grier	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
30602	G Bergerson	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
30603	M Wetherough	Bolton Wanderers	1.00
30604	M Fish	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30701	E Azzoni	Celtic	1.50
30702	M McKee	Celtic	2.50
30703	A Stables	Celtic	3.00
30704	M Skirrow	Celtic	3.00
30801	F Alcantara	Chelsea	2.50
30802	M Dumbury	Chelsea	2.50
30803	C Clark	Chelsea	2.50
30804	S Leesebourne	Chelsea	2.50
30801	D Bell	Coveントリー City	1.50
30802	R Shaw	Coveントリー City	1.50
30903	P Williams	Coveントリー City	1.50
31001	A Roberts	Cryshal Palace	1.50
31002	A Linington	Cryshal Palace	0.75
31003	D Hogg	Cryshal Palace	0.75
31004	H Henderson	Cryshal Palace	1.00
31101	I Siddons	Derby County	2.50
31102	J Lees	Derby County	2.50
31201	S Pressley	Dundee United	2.50
31401	G Shaw	Everton	1.50
31402	S Batic	Everton	2.50
31403	O Watson	Everton	2.50
31404	T Hill	Everton	1.50
31501	D Wade	Haverts	2.50
31601	J Hogg	Hibernian	2.50
31601	D Weatherall	Leds United	2.50
31802	G Hall	Leds United	2.50
31803	R Alexander	Leds United	2.50
31804	L Robinson	Leds United	2.00
31901	J Hogg	Leds United	3.50
31902	P Cusack	Leds United	2.00
31903	S Walsh	Leds United	2.00
31904	P Pryor	Leds United	2.00
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00
32002	D Maitland	Liverpool	3.00
32003	B Kvarnne	Liverpool	3.00
32001	H Hall	Manchester United	3.50
32101	D Maitland	Manchester United	3.50
32102	G Peggitt	Manchester United	3.50
32301	P Fort	Newcastle United	2.50
32302	P Pennington	Newcastle United	3.00
32303	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00
32304	C Platts	Newcastle United	3.00
32401	S Porritt	Rangers	3.50
32402	J Birchard	Rangers	3.50
32403	J Auermann	Rangers	3.50
32404	R Gough	Rangers	2.00
32501	R Wadsworth	Sheffild Wednesday	2.00
32502	J Newcombe	Sheffild Wednesday	2.00
32601	P Atherton	Sheffild Wednesday	2.00
32701	T Dryden	Southampton	1.00
32702	C Lundeville	Southampton	1.00
32704	K Jones	Southampton	1.00
32801	S McClellan	St Johnstone	0.50
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32802		Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32803	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
32804	C Caldwell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50
33001	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	2.50
33002	R Hall	West Ham United	2.00
33103	D Unsworth	West Ham United	2.00
33203	S Potts	West Ham United	1.50
33204	J Pearce	West Ham United	2.00
33301	C Perry	Widnesden	2.50
33302	S Blackman	Widnesden	2.50

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
40101	E. Jean	Aberdeen	2.00
40102	P. Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00
40201	M. O'Donnell	Aberdeen	2.50
40202	P. Vieira	Aberdeen	2.50
40203	S. Hughes	Aberdeen	2.00
40204	R. Parlor	Aberdeen	2.50
40205	D. Platt	Aberdeen	1.50
40301	M. Dwyer	Anton Villa	2.50
40302	I. Taylor	Anton Villa	1.50
40401	N. Williams	Barnsley	3.00
40402	E. Thidder	Barnsley	2.00
40403	D. Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00
40404	M. Sutcliffe	Barnsley	0.50
40501	J. Williams	Blackburn Rovers	2.00
40502	S. Blackley	Blackburn Rovers	3.00

STRIKERS

STRIKERS			
Code	Name	Team	Prior Eff.
50101	B Doodis	Abbotsdon	4.00
50201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	8.50
50301	D Yorke	Acton Villa	5.00
50302	S Collymore	Acton Villa	6.00
50303	S Miloscevic	Acton Villa	3.00
50401	C Ramsey	Barnsley	1.50
50402	J Hendrie	Barnsley	1.50
51102	A Ward	Barnsley	2.00
50403	C Marselle	Barnsley	1.00
50501	K Galticher	Blackburn Rovers	5.00
50502	M Deakin	Blackburn Rovers	4.50

MANAGERS

Code	Name	Team	Price Est
60102	A Miller	Abertsen	1.50
60201	A Wenger	Arnsrud	5.00
60201	A Little	Aston Villa	2.50
90401	D Wilson	Barnley	0.50
91001	R Hodgson	Blackburn Rovers	0.50
90501	C Wood	Boston Wanderers	0.50
60701	W Janson	Celtic	4.00
60901	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50
90901	G Bracken	Cowesley City	1.00
51001	S Coppell	Crystal Palace	0.75
91101	J Smith	Darby County	2.00
61201	T McLean	Durham United	2.00
61301	B Patton	Durhamville	1.00
61401	R Kennedy	Everton	1.00
61501	J Jeffries	Hearts	2.50
61601	J Dury	Hibernian	2.00
61701	V Williamson	Hibernian	3.00
91801	G Graham	Leeds United	2.00
61901	M O'Neill	Leicester City	2.50
92001	R Evans	Liverpool	2.50
62101	A Ferguson	Manchester United	4.00
62201	McLennan	Millwall	1.00
62301	R Dalgligh	Newcastle United	1.00
62401	W Smith	Rangers	5.00
62501	V Alderson	Sheffield Wednesday	4.00
62701	D Jones	Southampton	1.00
62801	P Blanco	St. James's	0.50
62901	Grose	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50
62901	R Redknapp	West Ham United	2.00
63001	J Klinsner	Wimbledon	2.00

Here for the Meyerbeer

The Royal Ballet's tour of London theatres brought the company to Festival Hall on Tuesday night for its Christmas season. The Royal is presenting the works of Friedrich Ashton, although adults will have to wait for the full measure of his glorious classical writing. For the time being it is children who are being catered for.

Les Patineurs, which Ashton made in 1937, is, however, a delightful example of his skill as a classical choreographer, its light easy humour matched by the flair of fine



A treasured moment: Muriel Valtat and Stuart Cassidy as the white couple in Ashton's 1937 skating ballet, *Les Patineurs*

Les Patineurs/ Beatrix Potter Festival Hall

academic writing. Skating is the motif but not the narrative, and Ashton uses the forward thrust of the skater as the inspiration for a work (set to dances by Meyerbeer) that celebrates the joy of movement, be it on ice or on stage.

Miyako Yoshida and Deborah Bull, as the blue skaters, led Tuesday night's cast. They make a good team: Yoshida is sweet and gamine-like. Bull more knowingly flirtatious. Yoshida's fourteenth were spun on, no less so Bull's rapid-fire turns in a circle.

Muriel Valtat and Stuart Cassidy as the white couple are the tender lovers of the piece. Skating for them is not a display of technical prowess but a few treasured moments of physical closeness. Although their partnership requires more polish, Valtat has a charming period quality which could shine if she was less worried about steps.

For technical prowess you need look no further than Tetsuya Kumakawa as the

male skater in blue. Here are the flash turns and bold jumps of classical virtuosity, packaged in a sparkling demonstration of self-confidence. Kumakawa wasn't quite up to scratch, the exactness of his execution slipping just a little. But he did perk up in time for

his final solo, bringing the curtain down with a spirited series of turns.

Tales of Beatrix Potter, which came after an absurdly long interval, offered the sight of Potter's cute and cuddly creatures come to life on stage. Fifteen minutes into the ballet,

however, and my seven-year-old date felt the call of nature (as did several other children around me). I duly obliged with a trip to the nearest facility only to be informed that we would then not be allowed to return to our seats. Strict orders from the Royal

Ballet management, I was told, forbid anyone entering the auditorium during the performance. If the Royal is trying to draw youngsters into the ballet, is this really the way to treat them?

DEBRA CRAINE

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
■ Some seats available
■ Seats at all prices

■ **ART**: Ron Cook, Nigel Havens and Malcolm Story in the occasionally interesting drama about friendship, *Unspoken Resentment*, and an almost all-white painting.

■ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**: Disney's 19th turned into a hit Broadway musical. Julie Kenner, Stephen Henshaw, Alastair Harvey as the leads, with support from the likes of Derek Griffiths and Norman Rossington.

■ **BUGSY MALONE**: The cast of the National Youth Music Theatre live in the spookiest of the spookiest musicals, *Beast*, written by Alan Parker's brother, Jeremy Taylor. Queens, Sharnbrook Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Today, tomorrow, Dec 28 and 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 31, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 31, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 31, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 31, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 31, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Aug 31, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sep 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Oct 31, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Nov 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Dec 31, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jan 31, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Feb 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Mar 31, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Apr 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. May 31, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 25, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 26, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 28, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jun 30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 1, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 2, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 3, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 4, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 5, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 6, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 7, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 8, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 9, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 10, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 11, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 12, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 13, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 14, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 15, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 16, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 17, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 18, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 19, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 20, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 21, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 22, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 23, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 24, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Jul 25

A child of six could do that

The daubings of children have inspired much great modern art, as a new book demonstrates. Richard Cork reports

When Roger Fry mounted his volcanic Post-Impressionist show in 1910, London was shaken by this sudden exposure to the revolutionary forces of modern art. Horrified by the exhibition, my predecessor on *The Times* claimed in this newspaper that "it throws away all that the long-developed skill of past artists had acquired and perpetuated. It begins all over again — and stops where a child would stop... it is the rejection of all that civilisation has done, the good with the bad."

Many of the incensed viewers who thronged the Grafton Galleries, and vented their indignation in the visitors' book, agreed with this unbridled verdict. The survey, spanning innovative developments in European art from Manet to Matisse, offered to their affronted eyes evidence of galloping infantism. They considered it wilfully crude, the daubing of charlatans in callow flight from everything a mature, sophisticated and technically accomplished artist should be expected to produce.

Similar accusations have been hurled at audacious work ever since. "A child of six could do it" continues to be trotted out as a well-worn expression of outrage by intemperate gallery-goers today. But the viewers who regurgitate this platitude fail to understand that artists themselves find nothing offensive in such an accusation. On the contrary: they regard it as a compliment well worth receiving. For the work produced by children has been a central source of inspiration to many major 20th-century painters.

Until now, the full extent of their debt has not been appreciated. But in an illuminating and at times revelatory new book, Jonathan Fineberg reveals just how dependent the great masters of Modernism were on child art. Fineberg, who is Professor of Art History at the University of Illinois, became fascinated by the subject when an invitation arrived from the Detroit Institute of Arts. They asked him to organise an exhibition directly comparing children's pictures to

outstanding 20th-century works of art. He felt sceptical at first. After all, how far could anyone argue that the protean genius of Picasso was fundamentally dependent on stimulus provided by untutored image-makers, whose experience of the world is so limited? The truth, however, swept away Fineberg's initial doubts, and made him embark on "the most exciting journey into art history I have ever undertaken".

He turned first to Kandinsky, whose pioneering pre-1914 abstractions had already been the focus of his doctoral dissertation. Like other historians, he knew that Kandinsky

At the end of my life I will recover all the force of my childhood

had pointed out in 1912 how "the child is indifferent to practical meanings since he looks at everything with fresh eyes, and he still has the natural ability to absorb the thing as such". Kandinsky argued in his theoretical writings that child art showed him how he could jettison "worldly" perception, and discover instead a more universal language. But Fineberg suspected, when looking again at the work Kandinsky produced, that it included a hitherto unguessed-at range of references to particular children's pictures.

Was it possible that Kandinsky, and other painters of his calibre, owned collections of child art? And might they still be preserved somewhere? An overwhelmingly positive answer came from Fineberg's first inquiry: the Lenbachhaus in Munich. Here, in storage, was the archive of Gabriele Münter, the artist who lived with Kandinsky before the First World War. It still contained the children's pictures they had collected during those

prodigiously inventive years. And many of them, especially the "primitive" work produced by four-year-olds, were used in Kandinsky's own paintings.

A coloured drawing of an elephant, by a Russian girl called Liliya Kenda, is quoted in his 1909 canvas of the same subject. But Kandinsky's animal seems even more markedly "naïve" than Liliya's. He encloses the elephant in thick, brusque outlines, and paints on its back a drape spattered with freely applied stains of sensuous colour. Kandinsky was obsessed by what he termed "the inner sound of the subject". He used this remarkable collection of images as a springboard for his own radical attempt to escape from naturalism and arouse the spiritual consciousness of the viewer.

Other artists found fruitful inspiration in the work they had produced during their own childhoods. Impatient with the academic paintings he was making in Rome, Klee discovered some early drawings preserved in his parents' shed. He found them far more exciting, in their wit and freedom from convention, than his current work. Between 1903 and 1905 Klee made 17 *Inventions* which, in their grotesquely distorted comedy, owe a great deal to the example of his boyhood pictures. For the rest of his career he would find stimulus in the spontaneity, directness and raw dynamism of children's work.

Picasso likewise saw it as a lifelong preoccupation. Accompanying Sir Herbert Read round a child art show in Paris after the Second World War, he studied the exhibits with rapt attention. Then, turning to Read, he said: "When I was the age of these children I could draw like Raphael. It took me many years to learn how to draw like these children." Although he never used their images in his work, Picasso studied his own children's pictures with enormous delight. When painting Claude and Paloma Picasso making art, he used a style frankly indebted to their swift, impulsive simplicity. And he la-



Joan Miró discussing a drawing by his daughter Dolorès with her: he preserved her pictures with great care in annotated envelopes

mented the fact that his father, a professor of drawing, had encouraged him to vie with academic ideals from an early age.

Time and again in the present century, artists recognised how much they had to gain by casting adult conventions aside. The energy and exhilaration of Miró's work is paralleled in the pictures pro-

duced by his daughter Dolorès. He relished her zest, finding in it a confirmation of the direction he had himself pursued. Miró preserved her early pictures with great care in annotated portfolio envelopes, and even sent one to Kandinsky in 1935. Around 30 years later, he declared that "the older I get and the more I master

the medium, the more I return to my earliest experiences. I think that at the end of my life I will recover all the force of my childhood."

He succeeded in doing so, arriving in his old age at a vision that Fineberg describes as "a subversive innocence". Those three words can stand as a telling summary of the essential attraction of children's

pictures. Their contribution to the irrepressible vivacity of modern art has been invaluable, and deserves a special accolade at a time when education has been moved to the very centre of the political stage.

● *The Innocent Eye: Children's Art and the Modern Artist* by Jonathan Fineberg is published by Princeton University Press, price £60

Boxing Day Jumbo Crossword Competition

ACROSS

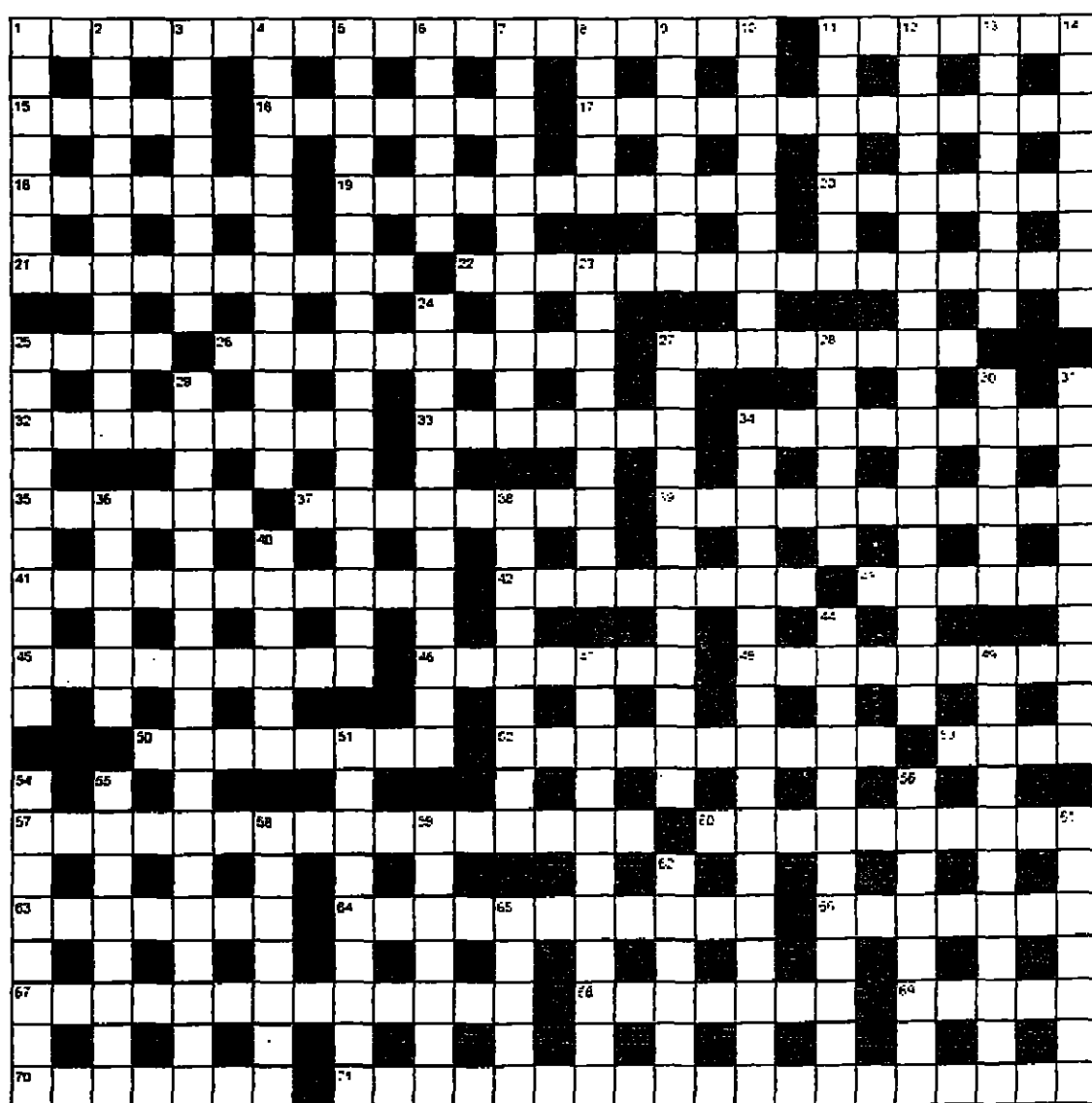
- 1 When will we sing in celebration today? (2,3,5,2,7)
- 11 Rejected what Jack's wife did about female material? (7)
- 15 One taking liberty could be at it! (5)
- 16 Equestrian always carries key books (7)
- 17 This isn't made plain in the bar (4,9)
- 18 Lock rented jewellery first (7)
- 19 Not contemplating being inconsiderate (11)
- 20 One missing flight - East German, well-off (7)
- 21 Am I still operating illegally? (10)
- 22 Disagreeing, when playing big hits and other numbers (2,5,3,6)
- 25 To some extent, one appears to go with the tide (4)
- 26 Stick by legal term, perhaps an invention of the Musicians Union (3,7)
- 27 Figure a cynic may apply to Military Intelligence (8)
- 32 This may cover Jack, until brief paragraph's edited (9)
- 33 This Scottish town could provide equipment for salon within the hour (7)
- 34 Far-seeing scientist may use this (9)
- 35 In Credo, perhaps, I give a poetry reading (6)
- 37 Complaint - English king's mistress rejected for Shakespearean role (8)
- 39 Revised view of clairvoyant? (6,5)
- 41 A force to be reckoned with, operating from the centre of things (11)
- 42 Assistance with a wager - deliberate eavesdropping (8)
- 43 County near collapsing - that's one in the eye for spectators! (6)
- 45 Outcome of section in bowls tournament (3,6)
- 46 Implement a chef's requirement (7)
- 48 It's antique, engraved on the outside - could be beaten? (9)
- 50 Show what's been programmed (8)
- 52 Breathe in gas fuels, and faint, going wobbly (10)
- 53 Element of insulting ridicule in certain bars (4)
- 57 There'll be room for me to fit, in theory (8,8)
- 60 It could make you tense, having to study Latin (10)
- 63 Line up, chanting, before dance? It should put one in pocket (3,4)
- 64 Play the queen in 1252 - turbulent part of declining years (11)
- 66 Most proud of cosy home, after state one found first (7)
- 67 Found guilty, I'd meant to reform? Absolutely! (13)
- 68 A page of seasonal entertainment (7)
- 69 Ass is in a hole, without wife's backing (5)
- 70 Show approval of last runner, not the leader (7)
- 71 Circled the right letter, as proof of one's claim (10,5,4)

DOWN

- 1 Our mild is brewed in metal container (3,4)
- 2 This animal no longer usually accompanies us, Rex (11)
- 3 Does it help one observing spectacle in New York? (8)
- 4 Current fashion (12)
- 5 A reasonable display, uncharacteristically low-key (9,3,5)
- 6 Drink first two up, given the choice (6)
- 7 More attractive pair coming in, comparatively vivacious (11)
- 8 Half of them satisfied one of the local workers (5)
- 9 Greek chap will shortly introduce three points (7)
- 10 It's vital, when going after the money (9)
- 11 Anything up with sheep that's been duplicated? (7)
- 12 So Nijinsky may have rejected a meal, given first-hand information (4,3,6,5)
- 13 One's bound to see mistakes in the paper (8)
- 14 Boarding steam loco - your traditional gem (8)
- 23 Knowing little of part of the reign or ancestry (9)
- 24 Prepared disclaimer - didn't injured lion-tamer do this, when told to? (6,6)
- 25 Sweet-sounding combination that may take Brazil apart (10)
- 27 So I'm very tip, when disposed to do this? (12)
- 28 Not a square, having more breadth, perhaps (6)
- 29 One's made a quick pile, producing fuel (4,7,7)
- 30 A bit of spirit shown by the head (6)
- 31 Are such compliments passed out by socialists? (4,6)
- 34 But it shouldn't make one collapse on Boxing Day! (9,8)
- 36 Woman nominated has the ability to lead the country (6)
- 38 Left article to be put in late in the day, making certain modifications (9)
- 40 Iron fixed up with safety device designed to give out (6)
- 44 Said au revoir in Madrid (5,2,5)
- 47 Sleep with cubist, disgracefully easily led (11)
- 49 The facility to fill up a field with fruit trees? (7,4)
- 51 Is one supposed to wink at other motorists? (9)
- 54 A feature of a coat of many colours? (8)
- 55 Restoring Burns in a class for pupils of a certain ability (8)
- 56 I should replace first vowel in word game - not a good draw (8)
- 58 My contract binds me to proceed with refurbishments - of Globe, that is (7)
- 59 Show a bit of leg - enjoy the party! (7)
- 61 Secure way to earn a living in broadcasting system (7)
- 62 Summons made VIP squirm (6)
- 65 69 perhaps, about past in great depth (5)

TEST YOUR WORD POWER IN OUR CROSSWORD COMPETITION

Prizes of £100 will be given for the first six correct solutions opened on Monday, January 12, 1998. Entries should be sent to: Boxing Day Jumbo Crossword (142), *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winner and solution will be published in Weekend on Saturday, January 17



NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____

Times Two Crossword

There are no prizes for this competition. The answers will be published on Monday, December 29

ACROSS

- 1 One worn by king of Hungary (5,5,2,2,7)
- 11 Strife, clashing (7)
- 15 Courted (5)
- 16 Looking lasciviously (7)
- 17 Shak, misanthrope play (5,2,6)
- 18 Spring back; tied again (7)
- 19 Rusting process (11)
- 20 Completely finished (3,4)
- 21 Ridiculing (10)
- 22 Naivety (6-10)
- 25 Peri girl (4)
- 26 Flock together (10)
- 27 Coin-operated calling apparatus (5)
- 32 A pastry, a preserve (9)
- 33 Custom: one reflective at night (4-3)
- 34 Candy floss stuff (4,5)
- 35 Put right (6)
- 37 One to be sniffed in (8)
- 39 Dampening (the air) (11)
- 41 Proper (behaviour) (Fr.) (5,2,4)
- 42 Undeviating (5)
- 43 Set-piece fight (6)
- 45 Eg Derby runner (9)
- 46 Across (ship's) path (7)
- 48 Infamous (9)
- 50 Diagonally-corded (tyre) (5,3)
- 52 Exonure novel (*Blackmore*) (5,5)
- 53 Nurse; incline (4)
- 57 Being too sweeping (16)
- 60 (Church) factionalist (10)
- 63 Son of Prometheus (7)
- 64 Wave meaningfully (11)
- 66 Item of clothing (7)
- 67 Rough result (13)
- 68 (Cardinal nominated) secretly (2,5)
- 69 Do hostile, poorly (5)
- 70 First RC president of US (7)
- 71 Tiddish legal decisions have unwelcome effect (4,5,4,3,3)

DOWN

- 1 In direction of (7)
- 2 Immoderateness (11)
- 3 Marxist Cultural Revolutionary (3,5)
- 4 Benevolent (4-8)
- 5 Keats *immortal Bird!* poem (5,2,1,11)
- 6 Courage; wul (11)
- 7 Meaningful (11)
- 8 On top (5)
- 9 Skirt length (7)
- 10 Unimportant person (4)
- 11 To cheat (7)
- 12 Made eg a will (7,4,7)
- 13 Summary introduction (8)
- 14 Suspicion (8)
- 23 Compere (9)
- 24 Trading fleet (8,4)
- 25 Ledge to support standing monk (10)
- 27 BC (era) (3,9)
- 28 Badgers; dogs (6)
- 29 Speak appropriately (6,7,5,4)
- 30 Prejudiced against elderly (6)
- 31 Moved forward (10)
- 34 Classical band (8,4)
- 36 Abrasive stone (6)
- 38 Agamemnon (Uranologist) (9)
- 40 Emergency signals: wide-bottomed trousers (6)
- 44 Permanent source of amusement (8,4)
- 47 Study of flight (11)
- 49 Fast one's prime (4,3,4)
- 51 Block of text (9)
- 54 Lord Chancellor's seat (8)
- 55 Never-growing up boy (5,3)
- 56 Food of gods (8)
- 58 In unpleasant way (7)
- 59 More rudely healthy (7)
- 61 One manipulated by another (4-3)
- 62 South American plain (6)
- 65 Type of bond (chem.); a Greek order (5)

EDUCATION

Midnight service on BBC1 made history by featuring a female choir, says Hugh Thompson

Girls achieve critical Mass

The sung Eucharist on BBC1 on Christmas Eve came from Salisbury Cathedral. Not only was it among the most popular televised services of the year, but also it was a small piece of history for church and women. For leading the singing was not only a boys' choir, but also a girls' choir.

Five years ago, there were no girls' choirs in English cathedrals. It was then that Salisbury Cathedral preparatory school switched to coeducation. The school decided that the process would be complete, and consistent with the emancipation of women in the Church, only if the school supplied 19 girl choristers as well as 19 boy singers. Today that practice is common in a dozen cathedrals.

For the girl choristers, who sing 12 hours a week on average, on top of their school work, the national event on Christmas Eve was, although special, all in a day's work. The lead chorister, Rosemary Moorsom, 12, says: "The most important thing for us is that it puts us on a par with the boys. There is still a feeling that they are the real choir and we are something else. Performing like this on television helps change that view."

All the girls join at eight — after tests that look for musical ability (they have to sight-read at nine), a good voice and academic attitude — and leave at 13. Each week there are eight hours of practice and four hours of performing.

Khetsiwe Gile-Rowley, whose parents live in Hong Kong, says: "The greatest thing is the opportunity to sing and enjoy the music. We would like more free time and I wish my parents were here, but I love the sense of achievement which comes from doing something well. If any girl is interested in joining I say go for it, you learn to love the music and you make such cool friends."



Note perfect: girl choristers Khetsiwe Gile-Rowley, Beanie Howard, Olivia Paterson and Rosemary Moorsom practise at Salisbury Cathedral

There is a healthy competition between the boys' and girls' choirs, although they often sing together. The girls still feel that because the boys have been around longer they are given better facilities and prominence.

For a start, because the boys' choir is better off financially, the boy choristers have at least half their fees paid, while the girls get just a quarter off. "It's

all a bit unfair. Last year we went to France while the boys' choir went to America. The boys have only been singing 900 years," says Sarah Mynott, another choir member.

Because they have been trained to professional standards, most girl (and boy) choristers go on to get full musical scholarships to public schools, though typically some

are so talented that they have the ability to gain academic scholarships as well. All reach grade six in at least one instrument, and some reach grade eight, by the time they leave.

There is little like a choir school in terms of training. The choristers must practise till perfect. They have to perform, be ready and be on time wearing cloaks and sur-

plices. They learn discipline because they are performing and practising so much music they have to learn time management to do their other work.

As the acting headmistress Christine Rolt says: "There is no shirking, they cannot say they don't feel like it. They develop terrific team spirit. The show has to go on. Of course the girls grumble. They would like more free time to chat, watch soap operas and experiment with make-up."

"What does happen is that they tend to use their little free time very constructively. In a few years I can't imagine there will be a cathedral in Britain which denies girls the opportunity to be choristers."

Although going to church seems to be in continual decline, choral music, to judge by the sales of CDs, bucks the trend. Most people, whatever their faith, cannot resist a good carol, requiem, Gregorian chant or one of the dozen or so

classic hymns. Although the choristers enjoy the music and the challenge of new construction, "they too prefer the better of the Tudor music," says Salisbury Cathedral's director of music, Simon Lowie.

The difference between the two choirs is that a boy's voice before it breaks has a lovely resonance and the girls overall have a sweeter tone, so one adjusts the music accordingly, "he says. "Musically, there is no difference in talent. The more you push them, the more you get out of them."

"Naturally they have their off-days and they have days when they are heavenly. It is sometimes easy to forget, since they are so professional, that they are children."

The choristers, too, admit to getting it wrong occasionally, but they are so far ahead of the congregation musically that nobody notices. Like seasoned professionals, they also know when they have captured the audience.

Spelling out a condition

Why Hazel Martin is relieved to find that her son has dyslexia

I got my best Christmas present a few days before the big day this year: the news that my son is dyslexic. He is 13, an affectionate kid with a good sense of humour, nice manners and friends, and he is sometimes disconcertingly shrewd. His school reports, however, tell another story. They are symphonies in D and E, with a leitmotif of "lacks organisation", "lacks effort", "easily distracted" and "occasionally disruptive".

We've lectured him endlessly on pulling his socks up, nagged, threatened and used bribes — and none of it has worked. He does better for a while and then it drifts back to Ds and Es.

On and off I had thought there might be a block to his concentration since infant school. He was slow to read, knew his letters but could not make words. However, by the time the word "dyslexia" had formed in my mind, he was reading. He daydreamed through junior school, but he passed the entry test for grammar school.

The first year involved a slog through lost books and timetables, and, of course, poor reports. But Chris was reading and writing fluently and he was obviously bright. My brother once showed him the sign alphabet, and Chris flawlessly demonstrated it to a friend who is deaf. And, as other mothers confirm, boys are naturally forgetful and disorganised. OK, I thought, I am looking for excuses. He is just a lazy little toad. So the lectures continued and we struggled on.

Then, after the last pitiful report, his father and his school head of year discussed the possibility of sterner discipline. Coming down on him "like a ton of bricks" was the phrase used, and it made me cringe. That and the fact that he got his first adolescent pimple spurred me into action. We had had enough of a struggle. If we came down on him as he was going into the moody, awkward years of adolescence, we would all be in deep trouble.

I decided to discount the excuses, so I rang the British Dyslexia Association to find out how to go about eliminating dyslexia from the prob-

lems. "Go through your GP and the school and it is likely to take two years," they said. "Go to a chartered psychologist for a private assessment and it is expensive but you will know straight away."

So we forked out £350 for a private assessment and now we know. Chris is dyslexic. Not only is he dyslexic, he is very bright. His verbal IQ is 123, which puts him in the top 6 per cent of the population, so he has been masking it.

I wept when I got the news — with relief because he is not just lazy, with regret for not having had him assessed sooner, and for all those times I had told him to get his act together when clearly he had been making a huge effort.

I do wonder what might have happened if we had not had £350. And why, if 10 per cent of the population is dyslexic to some degree, there is not more information to help parents and teachers to spot the tell-tale signs — not just an inability to read or mirror-writing, but essays with no logical order, problems with foreign languages, easy loss of concentration, disorganisation, difficulty in planning time, lost or forgotten homework and an inability to listen and take notes at the same time. These are classic symptoms, and Chris showed them all.

Specialised tutoring will help, and Ritalin, the drug prescribed for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, may be right for him. We will see. What support we'll get from his school also remains to be seen.

As for Chris, he is not thrilled about this new label, but he is reassured that he is in good company: Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, Tom Cruise and Whoopi Goldberg, to name but a few, were or are dyslexic.

"Just think, Mum," he said with a grin the morning after we got the news, "once we get this dyslexia sorted there'll be no stopping me."

It was, as I say, a wonderful Christmas present.

British Dyslexia Association Helpline (018 966 8271) Dyslexia Consultant: Josephine Durling, Chartered Psychologist (01245 420462)

EDUCATION

COURSES

WANTED KEEN READERS (Spot our errors!)

Would you like to earn £9 to £12 an hour part or full-time working from home reading books for publishers and other organizations? Many freelance proofreaders and editors have been trained by Chapman & Co. over the past seven years. (Read some of their comments in our Prospectus.) People with no previous experience, but a keen interest in books, have established their own business with our help in technique and marketing. Not everyone can be successful, but with application this could be the career you have been looking for. You need enthusiasm and a sharp eye. Your age and background is irrelevant. Send this advertisement working all the minutes you can find (or telephone us). We will send a FREE PROSPECTUS of our correspondence and training courses without obligation. Chapman & Co., 2 Southwark Way, Kent, SE1 1JG. Telephone: 01992 499488, Fax: 01992 498008

Learn French fast

Intensive French Classes - Starting now

For a free brochure call 0171 723 7471



Alliance Française de Londres 1 Dorset Square, London NW1 6PU and 4 Morwell St, London WC1B 3AN E-mail: info@alliancefrancaise.londres.org.uk

EASTER REVISION

EASTER COURSES AT HERTFORD COLLEGE, OXFORD A-LEVEL & GCSE For a Prospectus call: 01865 242078. Cherwell Tutors, Gifford, Oxford OX1 1LD

EDUCATION

ARBITRAGE TRADER

Leading LIFE company requires Arbitrage Trader. Applicants will have held a similar position within the industry and must have two years experience. They must be able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of this specialised area of futures trading. Expected salary package - £20,000. Apply in writing to Box No 9152

CARTOONING FOR PROFIT

Make money from your cartooning and illustration skills. Study from home to make a new career or profitable second income. For a free Prospectus call: 0800 371 500

HARROW SCHOOL

The Peter Beckwith Harrow Trust

Offers two scholarships every year to pupils currently being educated in state schools. The candidates are expected to show exceptional academic potential and to excel in at least one further field of sporting, musical, dramatic or creative activity.

Any boy who is over 10 and under 12 on 1st September 1998 and who is attending a state school in the UK is eligible to sit for the 1998 scholarship. Boys should normally have attended a state school for at least the previous three years.

The successful candidates will be offered a place at an acceptable preparatory school for two years followed by admission to Harrow School.

Financial assistance is provided, up to the full value of fees if necessary, for seven years of schooling.

For further details please contact:

Mrs Angie Peppiatt

The Peter Beckwith Harrow Trust

Hill Place House, 55a High Street,

London SW19 5BA.

Tel 0181 944 1288 Fax 0181 944 1054

The closing date for the receipt of applications is

Tuesday, 27th January 1998

Registered Charity Number 1015344

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

BOX No.

c/o THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS

P.O. BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST,

LONDON, E1 9GA

EDUCATION

THE SUNDAY TIMES THE TIMES EDUCATION

FORTHCOMING FEATURES

1998

EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT

Friday 9th January

Sunday 11th January

EASTER REVISION

Friday 16th January

Sunday 18th January

BOARDING SCHOOLS

Friday 23rd January

Sunday 25th January

MBA SUPPLEMENT

Monday 26th January

POSTGRADUATE COURSES

Friday 20th February

Sunday 22nd February

For further information about these features or to advertise please contact the Education Team on:

Tel: 0171 680 6800

Fax: 0171 782 7899

Email: simon.mallinson@newsint.co.uk

David Charter finds mutual support in the independent and state sector

From the lofty heights of the headmaster's office at Harrow School, you can see across London as far as Putney's school in the East End.

Central Foundation School for Girls is a world away from the £14,200-a-year boys' boarding school, yet both heads are working together to improve leadership training for youngsters. Nicholas Bomford, the Headmaster of Harrow, is chairman of the study group. Training for Leadership and Responsibility in the 21st Century, and Pat Hull is a prominent committee member.

The group was set up to highlight the best practice from schools of all types to answer the growing chorus from politicians and employers for more vocational training. The Government is itself considering ways of testing the "key skills" of communication, numeracy and teamwork as part of the entry criteria for university.

The need for guidance became apparent to Mr Bomford when Harrow wanted to update its leadership training and had to develop programmes for the report.

"We asked for samples of good practice, and were sent a number of papers by schools in the independent and maintained sector. We hope to present a document next year," he says.

"At Harrow, we want to make certain that everyone is involved and the idea of responsibility is developed — both for themselves and others."

This kind of training has an even more fundamental role at Central Foundation School. Without self-confidence, many of the mainly Muslim pupils may not fulfil their potential.

"Most of the reports from schools had been to do with outward bound and military training," she says. But team-building trips to faraway places have little relevance for Ms Hull, who has been head

Creating leaders of schoolchildren



Nicholas Bomford, Headmaster of Harrow School

since 1988, and joined the committee to ensure it would be of benefit to inner-city comprehensives.

"My considerations are for a socio-economically deprived area where most of the pupils are bilingual and there is a cultural constraint on what children are allowed to do independent of their families."

"It means most of the training for leadership and confidence-building has to take place inside the school. Most pupils are from large families

with quite a high record of unemployment. Most have not got an academic role model at home. We work towards them taking on more and more responsibility."

She has introduced student councils to give girls a say in school life. The older pupils act as mentors for the 11-year-olds. And on an individual level, each girl agrees the term's targets with her teachers in every subject.

The changes are beginning to show academic as well as

personal results. Central Foundation did not have a sixth form until 1991, but is now sending more and more girls to university. "We have got people reading medicine and we have just got our first girl into Oxford, reading engineering science. That is a real boost."

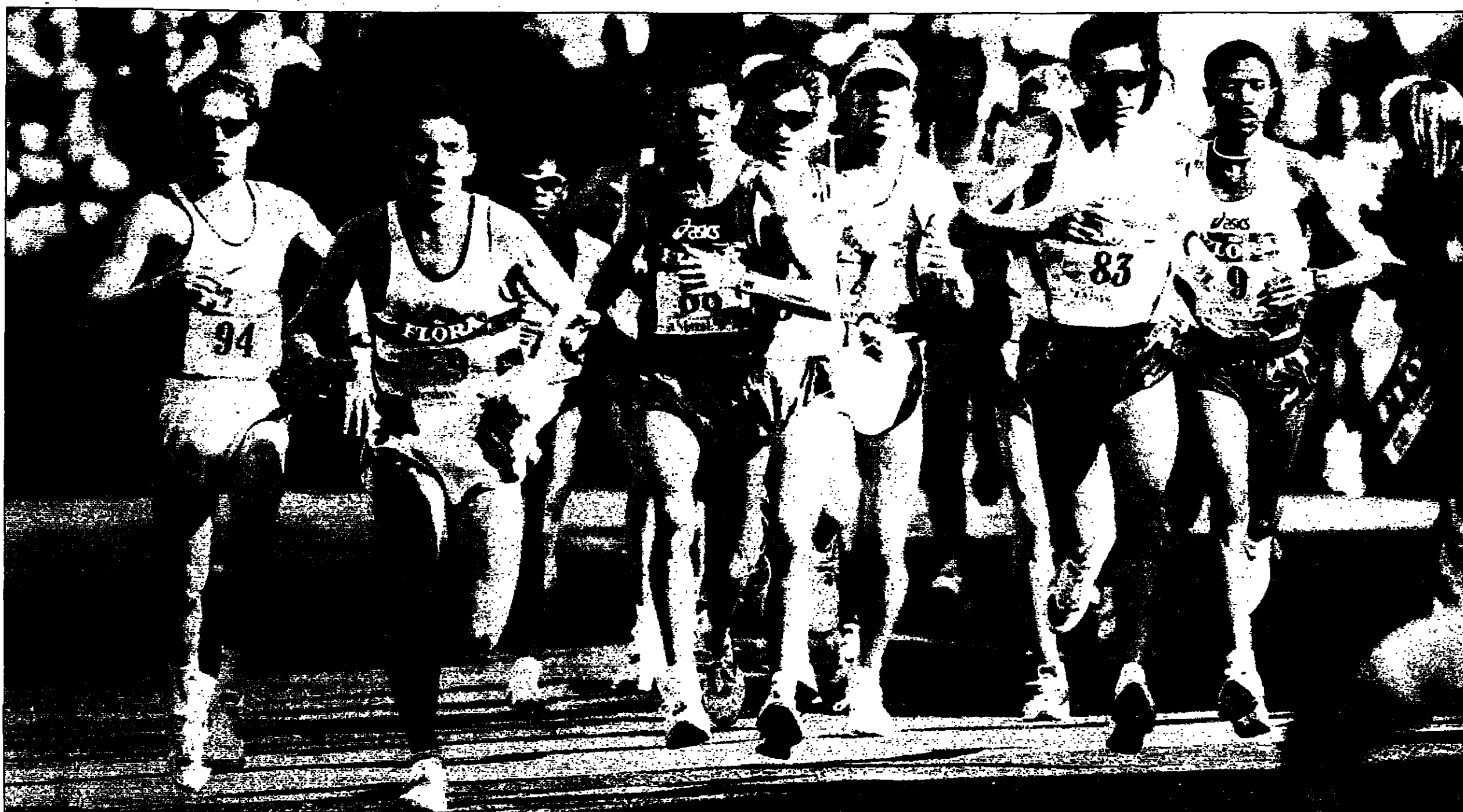
So what can independent schools such as Harrow learn from leadership training in a comprehensive, and vice versa? "I would love to think they can learn from us," says Ms Hull. "I think it is an excellent idea for schools across the sector to share information and support each other. It picks up on some of the things the Government has been talking about. Although I think politicians are not aware of how much people in the state and independent sector already share."

Central Foundation has already been exchanging sixth-formers for A-level lessons with James Allen's Girls' School in Dulwich. "It is invaluable for socialising and raising students' horizons and opportunities as well as getting to know people outside the East End. Long-term friendships are being formed. We intend to do it again."

Training for Leadership and Responsibility in the 21st Century was set up and sponsored by World Challenge Expeditions, which runs trips to countries such as India and Ecuador for teenagers.

Mark Fawcett, its communications director, says the company wanted to improve skills training for all pupils, especially those unable to go on trips abroad. "Our programmes aim to develop key skills such as leadership and team-working but we think that travelling overseas for an expedition is not for everybody, although the essential skills are something everybody could benefit from," he says. "It is also timely in that key skills training is what both politicians and schools are crying out for."

A chance to go the distance for Diana



Wanted: 20 people to run the marathon as fundraisers for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund



The Times has secured 20 places for its readers to take part in the 1998 Flora London Marathon and help raise more than the target of £5 million for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

The Times 20 will be part of Team Flora, in which all the runners will be fundraising for the Memorial Fund, one of the two official charities for the race next year. A special panel has been set up to select readers wanting to 'Run for Diana' over the historic distance through the streets of London on Sunday, April 26.

The Times will also publish the complete results of the race — from the international heroes and heroines at the front to the determined joggers at the back.

There has already been unprecedented interest in the 1998 event. A record 100,000 people applied to enter, including 20,000 who specifically responded to an invitation to run for the Memorial Fund.

This year, it was televised in more than 100 countries and 600,000 people lined the London streets to cheer on



the 29,135 competitors, who ran from Greenwich to the Mall, triumphantly finishing the course of 26 miles 385 yards.

The fund-raising for the Memorial Fund will be poignant for many of the competitors next year because they will be running on the streets where the coffin of the Princess was carried at her funeral on September 6. It will also be 10 years since she was the official starter of the 1988 event.

Applications should not

come from people who have already been informed that they have been selected to take part in the 1998 race.

They should be from those people, who have already been rejected or from anyone else who feels they can be inspired by the attempt to run the epic distance. Both men and women, experienced runners and novices, will be considered.

The names of the chosen 20 will be published in *The Times* on Monday, January 19 and the newspaper will

then highlight some of the runners' stories and preparation in the build-up to the event itself.

All the members of Team Flora will be supported and helped with all aspects of the marathon running and fund-raising, from training and nutrition to self-motivation, by a specially-selected support team. Every penny raised by the 250 runners will go to the Memorial Fund, as all administration costs will be covered by the Flora London Marathon.

THE TIMES DIANA TEAM COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Read the form below carefully: the judges will base their decision on what you reveal in this form. All the winners who take part in the marathon on April 26 will be asked to sign a pledge form relating to their commitment to raise funds for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and to remit such funds by May 31, 1998. Our

entry forms for the chance to win a place in the Diana Team should reach the following address by January 9, 1998: *The Times Diana Team, Flora London Marathon, PO Box 5071, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7FY*. Judging will take place on January 14 and the winners will be informed by telephone by January 19.

Title..... Initials.....
Surname.....
Address.....
Day tel.....
Eve tel.....
Age..... Female ☐ Male ☐
Occupation.....
Which category do you wish to enter?
Men ☐ Women ☐
Do you suffer from any illness/es?

Have you ever completed a marathon before?
How much money did you raise?
For which organisation/s?
Have you raised funds for any organisation/s before?
Describe how much you raised and how you did it

Have you been in hospital for an operation?
If yes, state what and when
Have you, a relative or friend, ever met Princess Diana? If yes, describe the occasion

Do you have any outstanding achievements of which you are proud? Tell us about them
What are your hobbies?

Have you, a relative or friend, any connection with any of the Diana, Princess of Wales, charities, or a special reason for wanting to be in the Diana team? Describe your connection

State, in not more than 50 words, why you deserve a place in this year's marathon

Please send the completed entry form to:
The Times/Diana Team, London Marathon, PO Box 5071, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7FY

Equities lower after late sell-off

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	1997	Low	Company	Price	High
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES													
394	437	Miller Domestic	530	-	1	4.8	151		990	32	Beck's	589	55
395	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
396	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
397	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
398	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
399	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
400	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
401	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
402	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
403	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
404	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
405	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
406	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
407	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
408	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
409	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
410	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
411	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
412	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
413	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
414	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
415	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
416	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
417	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
418	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
419	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
420	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
421	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
422	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
423	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
424	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
425	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
426	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
427	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
428	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
429	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
430	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
431	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
432	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
433	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
434	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
435	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
436	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
437	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
438	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
439	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
440	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
441	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
442	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
443	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
444	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
445	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
446	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
447	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
448	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
449	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
450	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
451	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
452	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
453	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
454	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
455	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
456	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
457	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
458	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
459	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
460	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
461	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
462	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
463	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
464	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
465	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
466	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
467	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
468	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
469	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
470	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
471	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
472	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
473	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
474	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
475	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
476	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
477	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
478	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
479	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
480	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
481	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
482	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
483	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
484	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
485	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
486	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
487	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
488	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
489	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
490	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
491	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
492	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
493	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
494	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
495	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
496	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
497	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
498	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
499	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
500	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
501	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
502	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
503	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
504	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
505	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
506	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
507	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
508	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
509	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
510	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55
511	397	Miller Export	530	-	1	4.8	151		100	100	Miller Export	589	55

1997 Low Company Price % Chg % PE				1997 High Low Company Price % Chg % PE				1997 Low Company Price % Chg % PE				1997 High Low Company Price % Chg % PE					
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES																	
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
BANKS																	
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST																	
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS																	
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
FOOD MANUFACTURERS																	
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES																	
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
LEISURE & HOTELS																	
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
Mining																	
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
PROPERTY																	
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
TELECOMMUNICATIONS																	
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
TEXTILES & APPAREL																	
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
TRANSPORT																	
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
WATER																	
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET																	
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120 120

120 120 120 120 120 120 1

1997	Low	Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES								
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
BANKS								
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST								
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS								
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
FOOD MANUFACTURERS								
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES								
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
LEISURE & HOTELS								
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
Mining								
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
PROPERTY								
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
TELECOMMUNICATIONS								
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
TEXTILES & APPAREL								
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
TRANSPORT								
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
WATER								
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET								
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

What's the best way to travel on the Internet?

There's nothing pretentious about LineOne. It gives you fast and easy access to the Internet, and the home page directs you straight to the subject you're interested in. If you want to explore the real world as well as the cyberworld, the Travel zone gives you invaluable advice and information on where to stay. Check us soon.

Try LineOne and the Internet FREE. Call 0800 111 210.

www.lineone.net

It's what you want to know

After your first trial LineOne is available from as little as £4.95 per month.

Tough in best

Banks a proclaim in day of



Retailers could find magic of Christmas loses its lustre

It is not just children who believe in the magic of Christmas. For the country's retailers the last two months of the year can make or break their financial fortunes. Around 30 per cent of total annual sales are made in the last quarter of the year. Even more importantly, December accounts for nearly 13 per cent of all retail sales — around 60 per cent more than in an average month.

This year the omens for a bumper Christmas looked good initially. Retail sales had soared since the beginning of the year, reaching a peak during the windfall-fuelled summer spending boom. Unemployment was still falling and in spite of the recent interest rate rises, consumer confidence and wealth remained at levels not seen for a decade. A clutch of retail surveys pointed to a seasonal shopping spree, with spending predicted to rise by a respectable 5 per cent to £24 billion — equivalent to £535 per person.

However, the evidence of this Christmas season has been more ambiguous, leaving retailers facing up to the fact that consumers have been reluctant to part with their hard-earned cash. A raft of poor trading statements, weak November retail sales data and anecdotal evidence pointed to a slow start to the festive season, leaving retail share prices under pressure as analysts rushed to downgrade their profit forecasts.

Michael Bennett, chairman of Oasis, the fashion retailer, described sales as "lacklustre", while Comet, the electrical goods retailer owned by Kingfisher, reported a disappointing increase in like-for-like sales during November.

Even at the top end of the market, retailers are finding it hard. Harvey Nichols reported that sales are only 3 per cent ahead of last year, while Joseph Wan, the company's chief executive, openly admitted that the "Absolutely Fabulous" store will be putting on a bumper January sale because it has ordered too much stock.

Some retailers, including the troubled Laura Ashley, were already discounting stock before Christmas in a desperate effort to kick-start sales. The Centre for Economics and Business Research

There are signs the seasonal spending splurge can no longer be taken as read, says Alasdair Murray



Joseph Wan, top, says Harvey Nichols will have a bumper January sale; Michael Bennett of Oasis, where Christmas has been "lacklustre"; and a sign of the times at Laura Ashley

estimates that retailers' over-optimism has resulted in a £3 billion mountain of unsold goods — around £1 billion more than usual.

Some analysts believe that signs of a weak Christmas — the strongest year for sales for a decade — reflect a shift in consumer spending habits, perhaps even the gradual demise of the Christmas shopper. Philip Boole, managing director of Camus, the cloth-

ing import company, says: "The public have become accustomed to nearly permanent sales. People will be giving money as presents at Christmas and wait until the beginning of the sales to spend it." Mr Boole believes that the impact will be devastating, especially in the clothing trade, and that if discounting persists "lots of companies will go bust this year".

However, the evidence of a distinct shift away from seasonal shopping is not conclusive. Clive Vaughan, a retail analyst at Verdict, the research group, argues that the level of discounting has actually declined over the past year. "If you look back to three of four years ago, half the companies had sales on throughout the year," he says. "But now a company such as Burton is managing to keep full prices for almost the whole year."

However, not all retailers are panicking. BHS said that its out-of-town stores have been busy. Marks & Spencer cautioned that early measures of Christmas sales are prone to give a misleading impression of business because consumers are leaving their shopping later and later.

Mr Vaughan supports this view, pointing to the vast expansion of opening hours in the last few years. Longer hours, including 24-hour supermarket openings and Sunday trading, have added 12 days of shopping time. With much of this extra time concentrated in the final week before Christmas — when many consumers are on holiday — there were many expecting the Christmas rush to come right at the end.

Mr Vaughan says: "With the introduction of Sunday trading, consumers have become more relaxed about leaving things to the last minute."

The Mintel analysis backs this theory, finding that about 40 per cent of consumers claim to start Christmas shopping only in December. Within these figures there is an inevitable bias towards a last-minute dash by male shoppers. About 50 per cent of men begin Christmas shopping only in December, while 20 per cent admit to starting in "late" December. Mr Vaughan maintained that this late rush will again have saved the retailers' Christmas, although the evidence of companies enjoying strong sales so far has been patchy.

However, given that expectations of a bumper Christmas had soared on the back of the summer retail boom, even a strong Christmas would not have satisfied the City. The round of January trading statements is likely to lead to a state of profit downgrades, while overstocking should ensure that consumers enjoy a wide choice in the January sales. The Christmas shopper may not be dead yet but retailers can no longer afford to take the seasonal splurge for granted.

An analysis by Mintel, the retail consultancy, of retail sales data from the last five years actually shows that Christmas has become more important to most retailers, although there was a slight shift away from last-quarter buying in 1996.

However, the Mintel survey provides anecdotal evidence from retailers that increased consumer affluence this year has perhaps slightly reduced the need for large-scale shopping at Christmas. Consumers have been better able to respond immediately to their needs, rather than hoarding for a Christmas splurge.

The windfall payouts from building society donations could have exaggerated this emerging trend, with consumers bringing forward spending previously tied to Christmas. Electrical retailers, which normally take more than one third of their annual sales in the last quarter, look especially vulnerable because they enjoyed bumper sales in the summer.

Mr Vaughan also believes there are some specific problems in this market, which may be holding back sales. Television sales appear to have slumped because the imminent introduction of digital television has left consumers confused as to when to upgrade their existing sets. The computer market is also struggling because of a fierce price war, which is expected to intensify in the new year when Intel cuts prices by up to 40 per cent.

Clothing and footwear sales, which are also tied heavily to the end of the year, were weak, with the retailers blaming the erratic weather. In contrast, food and drink sales — which are less Christmas-driven — enjoyed a strong seasonal run.

However, not all retailers are panicking. BHS said that its out-of-town stores have been busy. Marks & Spencer cautioned that early measures of Christmas sales are prone to give a misleading impression of business because consumers are leaving their shopping later and later.

Mr Vaughan supports this view, pointing to the vast expansion of opening hours in the last few years. Longer hours, including 24-hour supermarket openings and Sunday trading, have added 12 days of shopping time. With much of this extra time concentrated in the final week before Christmas — when many consumers are on holiday — there were many expecting the Christmas rush to come right at the end.

Mr Vaughan says: "With the introduction of Sunday trading, consumers have become more relaxed about leaving things to the last minute."

The Mintel analysis backs this theory, finding that about 40 per cent of consumers claim to start Christmas shopping only in December. Within these figures there is an inevitable bias towards a last-minute dash by male shoppers. About 50 per cent of men begin Christmas shopping only in December, while 20 per cent admit to starting in "late" December. Mr Vaughan maintained that this late rush will again have saved the retailers' Christmas, although the evidence of companies enjoying strong sales so far has been patchy.

However, given that expectations of a bumper Christmas had soared on the back of the summer retail boom, even a strong Christmas would not have satisfied the City. The round of January trading statements is likely to lead to a state of profit downgrades, while overstocking should ensure that consumers enjoy a wide choice in the January sales. The Christmas shopper may not be dead yet but retailers can no longer afford to take the seasonal splurge for granted.

Strauss's sensual Salome

Salome
BBC2, 2.50pm

You can understand why Oscar Wilde's story, brought to seductively sensual life in Richard Strauss's opera had the shocked audience roaring its disapproval when it was first seen in 1905. The story itself — of superbieth Salome, stepdaughter of King Herod (who fancies her desperately) — was originally banned. The beautiful Salome agreed to perform *The Dance of the Seven Veils* for Herod only if he would grant her any wish. At first he refuses when she says that all she wants is the head of the man she lusts after and is rejected by — John the Baptist — on a silver platter. This Covent Garden production — all black and silver and doom-laden ("I can hear the wings of the Angel of Death in the palace," sings Herod) is a wrenching experience and the central performance of Catherine Malfitano will leave you drained...

The Canterville Ghost
ITV, 4.10pm

Oscar Wilde again, with a story, adapted by Olivia Hetreed, and the cast to die for. Indeed, the anonymous ghost, Sir Simon de Canterville, already played by Ian Richardson, he's possibly the liveliest member of the cast — all hugely enjoying themselves as they camp it up — with splendid special effects — at Knebworth House. Celia Imrie is the new mistress of Canterville Chase, Edna Dore, the formidable housekeeper, Donald Sinden an over-the-top (naturally) dinner guest. Pauline Quilke a fraudulent medium and Rik Mayall superb as a hysterical exorcist is the Very Reverend Augustus Dampier. But this is really a children's story so it falls to the young heroine (Sarah-Jane Potts) to bring peace at last to the restless spirit.

The Vicar of Dibley
BBC1, 9.00pm

A seasonal kick-off for the latest four-part series and, as played so winningly by Dawn French, a very welcome vicar this is. If the Rev Geraldine could get together with that anxious, dishy vicar from *EastEnders* their church would overflow! But I digress... Geraldine is getting seriously worried about the non-start love affair between her two



Rik Mayall as Dampier (ITV, 4.10pm)

shyest parishioners — Alice (Emma Chambers) and Hugo (James Fleet). They seem to have been stuck in the "gazing soporily at each other" phase of their relationship for nearly a decade now, but as Geraldine manoeuvres them towards the mistletoe and their first kiss she herself gets a marriage proposal she would rather be without... Watch, too, for news of "Radio Dibley" — and a revue by the parishioners at the village hall over which the curtain should perhaps be drawn.

The Hunt
BBC2, 9.00pm

"The Empire, the Church and the Countryside — these are what I hold most dear," intones the fresh-faced new Master of the Ludlow Hunt, Rupert Inglesant. And he has even unprecedented access to the hunt's archives, even beautiful, study of the hunting life in rural England. Farmers, huntmen and women and local politicians get generous time to extol the glories of hunting in the face of the current opposition to pursuing and killing fowls ("notorious pests") with horse and hound is a time honoured sport which helps keeps what Rupert calls Mother Nature in control of the countryside. Fortunately we do not see a fox actually being torn apart — rather the majority go to earth where they are trapped by dogs which are specially trained to keep them at bay until they can be shot. So that's all right. Elizabeth Cowley

RADIO CHOICE

Bon Appetit
Radio 4, 9.45am

The start of a four-part series by Kevin Connolly which aims to answer the question: how come the French are so much better at food than we are? Boxing Day is as good a time as any to start, given that many of us will be asking why we put up with the same fare every year. Connolly starts with an examination of the more exotic French tastes, although the word "exotic" is used advisedly: what it means is why do the French eat horses, amphibians' legs, snails, pigs' ears and ox cheeks? But the real oddity is not so much what the French eat but the fact that they are only 20-odd miles away from us and yet their culinary tastes might as well be Martian. History, as Connolly shows us, has the answer, of course.

RADIO 1

9.00am The Best Mayo Radio Show in the World — Ever 12.00pm The 1000 Radio 1 Roadshow Summer Tour 2.00pm Clive Wain 6.00pm Pete Tong's Essential 97 9.00pm Judge Jules 11.00pm Westwood 12.00pm Rap Show 2.00am One in the Jungle 4.00am Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30am Wake Up to Wogan 8.30am Ken Bruce 12.00am Alan Freeman 2.00pm Christmas Lifestyles 3.00pm The Goon Show (1) 3.30pm Richard Ainsworth 5.00pm John Dunn 7.00pm Hubert 7.30pm The Late Show 8.00pm Extra Time (1) 10.00pm Paper Talk with Brian Alexander and Jay Rayner 11.00pm News Extra 11.30pm Listen to the Band 12.00am It's a Tuesday 1.00am Bob Harris 1.00am Charlie Howe

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Brief Lives '97 (1) 7.00am The Breakfast Programme 8.00am Nicky Carr 11.00am The 11.00am Show on Five, with Ian Payne. Includes commentary and reports on the day's football and coverage of the 2.20pm Persimmon King George VI Chase at Kempton Park 7.00pm The Late Show 8.00pm Extra Time (1) 10.00pm Paper Talk with Brian Alexander and Jay Rayner 11.00pm News Extra 11.30pm Listen to the Band 12.00am It's a Tuesday 1.00am Bob Harris 1.00am Charlie Howe

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Nick Abbott 10.00am Robin Barrie 2.00pm Nicky Horne 6.00pm (FM) Paul Coyte (NW) Cairn Jones 10.00pm Richard Porter 2.00am Howard Pearce

TALK RADIO

6.30am Marilyn Bunt 10.00am Phil Holden 1.30pm Gumbachini 2.00pm The 2.00pm Show with the 3.00pm The Race Debate 4.00pm Ronnie Barbour 7.30pm Nick Abbot 10.00pm Mike Allen 1.00am Andy Whit

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes, including Mozart, an Overture to the Marriage of Figaro; Haydn (Symphony No 96 in C minor); 9.00am The Classical Collection, with Peter Haden, Schubert (Klaviersonnata in E flat; Strauss (Ein Heldenleben); 10.00am Musical Encounters, with Geraint Lewis, Warlock (Benedicamus Domino); Bux (Fantasy in D minor); Gurney (Down by the Sally Gardens); Prokofiev (Piano and Violin Suite No 3); Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A); John Peterson (Rituals in Transferred Time); Tippett (Suite for the Birthday of Prince Charles); 12.00pm Composer of the Week: British Light Music 1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, From Studio 7, Manchester, introduced by Rodney Studdert, Martin Roscoe and Kathryn Scott, piano duo, Mozart (Andante and Variations); Schubert (Fantasy in F minor); 2.00pm The BBC Archive: Christmas Programme requests. Includes Paganini (Caprice No 5 in A); Elgar (Symphony No 1 in A flat, 1st mvt); Haydn (Piano Trio in G, Gypsy Rondo); Tippett (Sostato's aria, The Midsummer Marriage); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 27 in B flat); 3.00pm Nursery Rhymes: Ding-Dong Bell (5/5); 4.00pm Music: Christmas Concert with The Stedman, under Harry Christophers, perform a selection of festive music (1); 4.45pm Turn of the Century. A new series celebrating great performers, beginning with Russell Davies looking at Al Read

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00am News Briefing 6.10am Farming Today 6.25pm Prayer for the Day 6.30am On Your Farm 6.35am Weather 7.00pm Today 8.45am The Nation's Favourite Poems 8.55am Weather 9.05am Desert Island Discs. Sue Lawley's castaway is Sir Henry Scobie (1) 9.45am Bon Appetit. See Choice (1/4) 10.00pm (FM) News: Writer's France. Peter Lennon studies the life of the poet of *Le Cid* (1/3) 10.10pm (LW) News: an Act of Worship 10.15pm Cold Turkey with Dan and Mike, Dan Freedman and Nick Rogers had a half-hour of comedy 11.00pm Foul Play. P.D. James and H.R.F. Keating try to solve a seasonal crime (1) 11.30pm The Pickwick Papers, by Charles Dickens, dramatised by Marilyn Reid (3/6) 12.00pm News: Truston Rivers. Agatha, Jenny Hanley talks to Ed Stewart, Michael Aspel, Don Maclean, Bernie Clifton, Pip Hinton and Ian Hunt about *Crackjack* (2/2) 12.25pm The Food Programme 12.55pm Weather 1.00pm The World at One, with James Cox 1.40pm The Archers (1) 1.55pm Shipping Forecast 2.00pm News: Classic Serial: Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator, by Roald Dahl, dramatised by Malcolm McKee with Matthew Kelly (1) 3.00pm News: An Ardent In Sound: Playgroup. Piers Powright looks at English life (1/2) (1) 3.30pm An Ardent In Sound: Playgroup. Piers Powright looks at English life (1/2) (1) following a teacher through a typical day at school (2/2) (1)

Second to None: The Proxy Parent
Radio 4, 8.50pm

Another series of the programme that delves into the lives of people who have chosen to be substitutes, though happily there are no footballers present. Tonight the programme follows Vicky, whose job it is to take charge of other people's families for a few days or a few weeks at a time. While the programme was being made Vicky was looking after three children, a dog and two cats and this included some fairly awesome responsibilities, such as taking Nick, the seven-year-old, to his first Holy Communion and Philip, the five-year-old, to his first school sports day. There are moments when this kind of job can be quite draining on the emotions, for Vicky and indeed for the listener. Peter Barnard

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30am Meridian Feature 7.00am News 7.15am From the West 7.30am First 8.00am News 8.15am World of Music 8.30am News 8.45am World of Music 8.55am News 9.05am World of Music 9.15am News 9.30am Sports Roundup 10.00am Newsday 10.30am Northern Lights 11.00am Newsday 11.30am People and Politics 12.00am News 12.05am World Business Review 12.15am A Jolly Good Show 12.45am Short Story 1.00am Newsday 2.00am News 2.05am Sports Roundup 3.00am News 3.05am Sports Roundup 4.00am News 4.15am Sports Roundup 4.30am (5/5) only News in German 5.00am News 5.05am News 5.10am News 5.15am News 5.20am News 5.25am News 5.30am News 5.35am News 5.40am News 5.45am News 5.50am News 5.55am News 6.00am News 6.05am News 6.10am News 6.15am News 6.20am News 6.25am News 6.30am News 6.35am News 6.40am News 6.45am News 6.50am News 6.55am News 7.00am News 7.05am News 7.10am News 7.15am News 7.20am News 7.25am News 7.30am News 7.35am News 7.40am News 7.45am News 7.50am News 7.55am News 8.00am News 8.05am News 8.10am News 8.15am News 8.20am News 8.25am News 8.30am News 8.35am News 8.40am News 8.45am News 8.50am News 8.55am News 9.00am News 9.05am News 9.10am News 9.15am News 9.20am News 9.25am News 9.30am News 9.35am News 9.40am News 9.45am News 9.50am News 9.55am News 10.00am News 10.05am News 10.10am News 10.15am News 10.20am News 10.25am News 10.30am News 10.35am News 10.40am News 10.45am News 10.50am News 10.55am News 11.00am News 11.05am News 11.10am News 11.15am News 11.20am News 11.25am News 11.30am News 11.35am News 11.40am News 11.45am News 11.50am News 11.55am News 12.00am News 12.05am News 12.10am News 12.15am News 12.20am News 12.25am News 12.30am News 12.35am News 12.40am News 12.45am News 12.50am News 12.55am News 1.00am News 1.05am News 1.10am News 1.15am News 1.20am News 1.25am News 1.30am News 1.35am News 1.40am News 1.45am News 1.50am News 1.55am News 2.00am News 2.05am News 2.10am News 2.15am News 2.20am News 2.25am News 2.30am News 2.35am News 2.40am News 2.45am News 2.50am News 2.55am News 3.00am News 3.05am News 3.10am News 3.15am News 3.20am News 3.25am News 3.30am News 3.35am News 3.40am News 3.45am News 3.50am News 3.55am News 4.00am News 4.05am News 4.10am News 4.15am News 4.20am News 4.25am News 4.30am News 4.35am News 4.40am News 4.45am News 4.50am News 4.55am News 5.00am News 5.05am News 5.10am News 5.15am News 5.20am News 5.25am News 5.30am News 5.35am News 5.40am News 5.45am News 5.50am News 5.55am News 6.00am News 6.05am News 6.10am News 6.15am News 6.20am News 6.25am News 6.30am News 6.35am News 6.40am News 6.45am News 6.50am News 6.55am News 7.00am News 7.05am News 7.10am News 7.15am News 7.20am News 7.25am News 7.30am News 7.35am News 7.40am News 7.45am News 7.50am News 7.55am News 8.00am News 8.05am News 8.10am News 8.15am News 8.20am News 8.25am News 8.30am News 8.35am News 8.40am News 8.45am News 8.50am News 8.55am News 9.00am News 9.05am News 9.10am News 9.15am News 9.20am News 9.25am News 9.30am News 9.35am News 9.40am News 9.45am News 9.50am News 9.55am News 10.00am News 10.05am News 10.10am News 10.15am News 10.20am News 10.25am News 10.30am News 10.35am News 10.40am News 10.45am News 10.50am News 10.55am News 11.00am News 11.05am News 11.10am News 11.15am News 11.20am News 11.25am News 11.30am News 11.35am News 11.40am News 11.45am News 11.50am News 11.55am News 12.00am News 12.05am News 12.10am News 12.15am News 12.20am News 12.25am News 12.30am News 12.35am News 12.40am News 12.45am News 12.50am News 12.55am News 1.00am News 1.05am News 1.10am News 1.15am News 1.20am News 1.25am News 1.30am News 1.35am News 1.40am News 1.45am News 1.50am News 1.55am News 2.00am News 2.05am News 2.10am News 2.15am News 2.20am News 2.25am News 2.30am News 2.35am News 2.40am News 2.45am News 2.50am News 2.55am News 3.00am News 3.05am News 3.10am News 3.15am News 3.20am News 3.25am News 3.30am News 3.35am News 3.40am News 3.45am News 3.50am News 3.55am News 4.00am News 4.05am News 4.10am News 4.15am News 4.20am News 4.25am News 4.30am News 4.35am News 4.40am News 4.45am News 4.50am News 4.55am News 5.00am News 5.05am News 5.10am News 5.15am News 5.20am News 5.25am News 5.30am News 5.35am News 5.40am News 5.45am News 5.50am News 5.55am News 6.00am News 6.05am News 6.10am News 6.15am News 6.20am News 6.25am News 6.30am News 6.35am News 6.40am News 6.45am News 6.50am News 6.55am News 7.00am News 7.05am News 7.10am News 7.15am News 7.20am News 7.25am News 7.30am News 7.35am News 7.40am News 7.45am News 7.50am News 7.55am News 8.00am News 8.05am News 8.10am News 8.15am News 8.20am News 8.25am News 8.30am News 8.35am News 8.40am News 8.45am News 8.50am News 8.55am News 9.00am News 9.05am News 9.10am News 9.15am News 9.20am News 9.25am News 9.30am News 9.35am News 9.40am News 9.45am News 9.50am News 9.55am News 10.00am News 10.05am News 10.10am News 10.15am News 10.20am News 10.25am News 10.30am News 10.35am News 10.40am News 10.45am News 10.50am News 10.55am News 11.00am News 11.05am News 11.10am News 11.15am News 11.20am News 11.25am News 11.30am News 11.35am News 11.40am News 11.45am News 11.50am News 11.55am News 12.00am News 12.05am News 12.10am News 12.15am News 12.20am News 12.25am News 12.30am News 12.35am News 12.40am News 12.45am News 12.50am News 12.55am News 1.00am News 1.05am News 1.10am News 1.15am News 1.20am News 1.25am News 1.30am News 1.35am News 1.40am News 1.45am News 1.50am News 1.55am News 2.00am News 2.05am News 2.10am News 2.15am News 2.20am News 2.25am News 2.30am News 2.35am News 2.40am News 2.45am News 2.50am News 2.55am News 3.00am News 3.05am News 3.10am News 3.15am News 3.20am News 3.25am News 3.30am News 3.35am News 3.40am News 3.45am News 3.50am News 3.55am News 4.00am News 4.05am News 4.10am News 4.15am News 4.20am News 4.25am News 4.30am News 4.35am News 4.40am News 4.45am News 4.50am News 4.55am News 5.00am News 5.05am News 5.10am News 5.15am News 5.20am News 5.25am News 5.30am News 5.35am News 5.40am News 5.45am News 5.50am News 5.55am News 6.00am News 6.05am News 6.10am News 6.15am News 6.20am News 6.25am News 6.30am News 6.35am News 6.40am News 6.45am News 6.50am News 6.55am News 7.00am News 7.05am News 7.10am News 7.15am News 7.20am News 7.25am News 7.30am News 7.35am News 7.40am News 7.45am News 7.50am News 7.55am News 8.00am News 8.05am News 8.10am News 8.15am News 8.20am News 8.25am News 8.30am News 8.35am News 8.40am News 8.45am News 8.50am News 8.55am News 9.00am News 9.05am News 9.10am News 9.15am News 9.20am News 9.25am News 9.30am News 9.35am News 9.40am News 9.45am News 9.50am News 9.55am News 10.00am News 10.05am News 10.10am News 10.15am News 10.20am News 10.25am News 10.30am News 10.35am News 10.40am News 10.45am News 10.50am News 10.55am News 11.00am News 11.05am News 11.10am News 11.15am News 11.20am News 11.25am News 11.30am News 11.35am News 11.40am News 11.45am News 11.50am News 11.55am News 12.00am News 12.05am News 12.10am News 12.15am News 12.20am News 12.25am News 12.30am News 12.35am News 12.40am News 12.45am News 12.50am News 12.55am News 1.00am News 1.05am News 1.10am News 1.15am News 1.20am News 1.25am News 1.30am News 1.35am News 1.40am News 1.45am News 1.50am News 1.55am News 2.00am News 2.05am News 2.10am News 2.15am News 2.20am News 2.25am News 2.30am News 2.35am News 2.40am News 2.45am News 2.50am News 2.55am News 3.00am News 3.05am News 3.10am News 3.15am News 3.20am News 3.25am News 3.30am News 3.35am News 3.40am News 3.45am News 3.50am News 3.55am News 4.00am News 4.05am News 4.10am News 4.15am News 4.20am News 4.25am News 4.30am News 4.35am News 4.40am News 4.45am News 4.50am News 4.55am News 5.00am News 5.05am News 5.10am News 5.15am News 5.20am News 5.25am News 5.30am News 5.35am News 5.40am News 5.45am News 5.50am News 5.55am News 6.00am News 6.05am News 6.10am News 6.15am News 6.20am News 6.25am News 6.30am News 6.35am News 6.40am News 6.45am News 6.50am News 6.55am News 7.00am News 7.05am News 7.10am News 7.15am News 7.20am News 7.25am News 7.30am News 7.35am News 7.40am News 7.45am News 7.50am News 7.55am News 8.00am News 8.05am News 8.10am News 8.15am News 8.20am News 8.25am News 8.30am News 8.35am News 8.40am News 8.45am News 8.50am News 8.55am News 9.00am News 9.05am News 9.10am News 9.15am News 9.20am News 9.25am News 9.30am News 9.35am News 9.40am News 9.45am News 9.50am News 9.55am News 10.00am News 10.05am News 10.10am News 10.15am News 10.20am News 10.25am News 10.30am News 10.35am News 10.40am News 10.45am News 10.50am News 10.55am News 11.00am News 11.05am News 11.10am News 11.15am News 11.20am News 11.25am News 11.30am News 11.35am News 11.40am News 11.45am News 11.50am News 11.55am News 12.00am News 12.05am News 12.10am News 12.15am News 12.20am News 12.25am News 12.30am News 12.35am News 12.40am News 12.45am News 12.50am News 12.55am News 1.00am News 1.05am News 1.10am News 1.15am News 1.20am News 1.25am News 1.30am News 1.35am News 1.40am News 1.45am News 1.50am News 1.55am News 2.00am News 2.05am News 2.10am News 2.15am News 2.20am News 2.25am News 2.30am News 2.35am News 2.40am News 2.45am News 2.50am News 2.55am News 3.00am News 3.05am News 3.10am News 3.15am News 3.20am News 3.25am News 3.30am News 3.35am News 3.40am News 3.45am News 3.50am News 3.55am News 4.00am News 4.05am News 4.10am News 4.15am News 4.20am News 4.25am News 4.30am News 4.35am News 4.40am News 4.45am News 4.50am News 4.55am News 5.00am News 5.05am News 5.10am News 5.15am News 5.20am News 5.25am News 5.30am News 5.35am News 5.40am News 5.45am News 5.50am News 5.55am News 6.00am News 6.05am News 6.10am News 6.15am News 6.20am News 6.25am News 6.30am News

'Follow star' was the call, but nothing shone

Round my house the day started — or rather paused for recharging — with Tele-tubbies (BBC1). Not sure why the baby is indifferent to it, calls it adult. But we like it and it gets us out of our way for 25 minutes, so off to Tele-tubby land it was.

It didn't take long to realise that baby had a point. I mean, how many under-2s would have appreciated Dipsy's fine impersonation of Michael Jackson breakdancing? Or the full symbolism of Tinky Winky opening his present (and after the controversial recasting there can be no doubt that Tinky Winky is a he) to find he'd been given a floating, shiny star? "Whassat?" he gurgled, with frightening authenticity.

Anyway, once he had worked it out and Noddy, the voracious vacuum cleaner, had realised you could not eat it, they were off. "Follow star," commanded Tinky Winky, which is how this particular

star came to be followed not by three wise men but four slightly dim and overweight Tele-tubbies. It eventually finished on top of the Christmas tree that has suddenly sprung up in the surreal pastures. Two to one those giant rabbits will have eaten it by New Year.

"Time for Tubby-choffee or Tubby-Champers?" I inquired, after he'd said our goodbyes. It was an important decision. Go one way and there might still be time for the prune and paté stuffing that Jennifer Peterson had prepared on Two Fat Ladies (BBC2, Christmas Eve). Then I remembered the preparation the prunes needed — soaked in Earl Grey tea, simmered in goose giblet stock then rinsed in vermouth. I don't know about life being too short, but Christmas certainly was. We settled for Clarissa Dickson Wright's Swedish red cabbage which we prepared... in an English red cabbage sort of way.

Gary would later show the same gastronomic flexibility in Men Behaving Badly (BBC1) when he discovered that he had neither the prunes nor the Armagnac that Della Smith specified, so he went for sun-dried tomatoes and tquila. Good choice, mate... until he hit the Bailey's. For that way lies ruin, as Aunt Sal had already discovered in EastEnders (BBC1). She started with sherry, then switched to gin and tonic, then moved on to red wine, Bacardi, pina colada... She was last seen staggering towards the bar of the Queen Vic in search of a Malibu and pineapple. As she said, oh so tactfully, to Phil: "Must be terrible not to have a drink at Christmas."

After the ups (best moment, Paris) and downs (Ireland), the soap has been in the finishing year, in cracking form. Roy at death's door, Frank back on the Par prowl and best of

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

all Terry and Irene's inevitable but still scary Yuletide coupling. For a while yesterday it looked as though Peggy might even get away with her rash Christmas Eve promise that "nothing was going to spoil our Christmas". But then Phil cut up rough about baby-sitting. Grant and the newly empowered Tiffany were at each other's throats and Kath and the vicar were at each other's lips,

having a distinctly secular snog. Will Peggy catch them at it? Well, I'm not missing it tonight.

Would that such compelling fare had been more evenly spread, but alas it was not. There was something particularly depressing about BBC1 scheduling *Men Behaving Badly* and *They Think It's All Over* one after the other. Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve, you wouldn't have blinked twice but Christmas night? *Men Behaving Badly*, by itself, they'd have got away with because, despite an opening flurry of bleeped four-words, it managed to hit all sorts of raw nerves on the difference between Christmas fantasy and Christmas reality. The fact that Debs (Leslie Ash, sporting a new and seriously grown-up haircut) briefly chucked Tony (Neil Morrissey) meant that there was even a bit of running storyline to keep up with. And when did that last happen in a Christmas special?

But following it with *They Think It's All Over*, especially a Christmas special recorded so long ago that Lee Hurst was still in David Gower's team, that was depressing. The programme's lack of charm has been an integral part of its tiddish appeal, but the sniping is now so vicious and the humour so puny that it is difficult to disagree with those who think it is high time it was knocked on the head.

I used to be funny, it isn't any more. They think it's all over. It should be — allowing Gower and Gary Lineker to recover a bit of dignity and enabling the talented Nick Hancock to move on to something new.

Conspicuous by its absence from all channels and much missed was the big chunk of television drama that Christmas night is made for — a Morse would have done, an Agatha Christie even better. Cur-

iously, ITV rather frittered its chance away on Tuesday night with *The Pale Horse*. It may have been a star or two short of automatic top billing and it didn't have a Christmas theme, but it managed to combine a crime thriller with the occult in a fashion watchable, even half-way plausible. Chyle.

Furists may have balked at the updating of Christie's novel, but given the astonishing popularity of *Heartbeat*, it's a miracle that all ITV drama is not set in the early 1960s. This one was — allowing Colin Buchanan and Jayne Ashbourne to rush around the Cotswolds in a convertible Triumph Vitesse (think Agatha Christie meets *Blow Up* — only without the sex), while some rather overconfident Vitchies slipped into something black and shiny and prepared as only Christie witches can. "Are you comie, Sybil?" "Yes thank you dear." Lovely.

- BBC1**
- 6.30 am The Greedy Gans (5846807)
 - 6.35 William's Wish Wellingtons (5863878)
 - 6.40 Bump's Christmas Story (2749201)
 - 6.50 Spot's Magical Christmas (5821055)
 - 7.25 Poodington (2300171)
 - 7.35 Top Symphonies (296152)
 - 7.50 White Christmas (5845317)
 - 8.15 Eek the Cat (5826535)
 - 8.40 Sweet Valley High (5806807)
 - 9.00 North and South: On Tour (789925)
 - 9.25 Casper Classics (5806220)
 - 9.40 Tele-tubbies (5833591)
 - 10.10 Superman III (1983) Christopher Reeve reprises the role of the Man of Steel. Directed by Richard Lester (7082807)
 - 12.10 pm Paul McCartney's Standing Stone: The Documentary How he created his first symphonic work, with help from fellow composers including John Harris and Richard Rodney Bennett (7885671)
 - 1.00 News (T) regional news and weather (5805288)
 - 1.10 Neighbours (T) (73112775)
 - 1.30 Dinsytime (T) (4912355)
 - 2.10 Hook (1991) Robin Williams and Dustin Hoffman star as sworn enemies in Steven Spielberg's update of the classic children's story (T) (4797572)
 - 4.25 The Pink Panther (T) (3815881)
 - 4.50 Final Score (T) (5346317)
 - 5.10 News (T) (5733715)
 - 5.25 Neighbours (T) (73112775)
 - 5.50 Big Break (T) (544404)
 - 6.20 Beethoven's 2nd (1993) Comedy with Charles Grodin and Bonnie Hunt, about a lovable St Bernard dog. Directed by Rod Daniel (1478442)
 - 7.40 EastEnders Tiffany pushes Grant over the edge and Frank unwittingly becomes Pat's knight in shining armour (T) (312713)
 - 8.10 Blankety Blank Lily Savage kicks off a new series (T) (516882)
 - 8.40 News (T) and weather (780510)
 - 8.58 Perfect Day for Christmas The chart-topping video (T) (419048)
 - 9.00 The Vicar of Dibley Geraldine takes it upon herself to push Alice and Hugo's relationship forward (T) (533133)
 - 9.40 Before They Were Famous III Angus Deayton with television and film stars' early career appearances (T) (203530)
 - 10.15 True Lies Arnold Schwarzenegger stars as a computer salesman who leads a double life as a superspy embroiled in international terrorism. Also with Jamie Lee Curtis. Directed by James Cameron (T) (3553717)
 - 12.35 am Unplugged: Oasis An acoustic set recorded last year at London's Festival Hall (T) (486878)
 - 1.20 Carry On Girls (1973) Sid James persuades his local council to hold a beauty contest, unaware that a woman's action group is plotting to sabotage the event. Directed by Gerald Thomas (774008)
 - 2.40 Weather (2406824)
 - 2.45 BBC News 24

- BBC2**
- 7.15 am The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (T) (2965510)
 - 7.40 Gold Diggers of 1933 (1933, b/w) Joan Blondell, Ruby Keeler and Alvin Karpis star as Broadway chorus girls. Directed by Mervyn LeRoy (1821468)
 - 8.15 Oliver Twist (1948, b/w) See Film Choice. David Lean directs Alec Guinness as Fagin in this adaptation of the classic Charles Dickens novel. Also starring Robert Newton, John Howard Davies, Kay Walsh and Anthony Newley (7854085)
 - 11.05 FILM: Thoroughly Modern Millie (1967) Musical farce, with Julie Andrews, as a Kansas girl who leaves her country roots behind for the bright lights of New York where she hopes to find success, sophistication, and a wealthy husband. Also starring Mary Tyler Moore and Carol Channing. Directed by George Roy Hill (T) (4715103)
 - 1.20 pm Christmas in Vienna Piccolo Domingo and Sarah Brightman, Riccardo Cocciante and Helmut Lotti perform Christmas music (2363775)
 - 2.20 Everything to Play For (3/5) (45876335)



Catherine Malfitano stars (2.50pm)

- 2.50 Salome Salome Lucy Bondy's Royal Opera production of Richard Strauss's opera, with Catherine Malfitano and Bryn Terfel (97351152)
- 4.45 Far Country (1955) James Stewart sets out to strike it rich in the Alaskan goldfields with an old pal — but finds his best efforts scuppered by swindlers, rogues and rampant problems. Directed by Anthony Mann (T) (4055248)
- 6.20 Land of the Tiger The monsoon rainforests of Assam, Southern India's Western Ghats and Sri Lanka. Last in series (T) (304510)
- 7.10 A Christmas Dickens: Mrs Lippie's Lodgings Last in series (T) (303775)
- 7.45 The Royal Ballet George Balanchine's *Symphony in C* and William Forsythe's *Steepled* (725065)
- 9.00 Under the Sun: The Hunt Documentary promising a balanced view of fox hunting (792404)
- 10.10 Steptoe and Son Christmas Special Harold plans to take Christmas holiday abroad (T) (338775)
- 10.55 Stella Street with John Sessions and Phil Cornwell (T) (338133)
- 11.05 The Browning Version (1994) with Albert Finney, Matthew Modest, Ben Silverstone and Greta Scacchi. A lonely schoolmaster reflects that both his marriage and his career have been failures. Directed by Mike Figgis (611423)
- 12.35 am The Amazing Colossal Man (1957, b/w) Sci-fi adventure, with Glenn Langan and Cathy Downs, directed by Bert I. Gordon (2252640)
- 1.55 Weather (7880447)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (2254084)
 - 9.25 Treasure Seekers (4/4) (T) (1757881)
 - 9.55 Tiny Toon Adventures (1248591)
 - 10.20 Percy the Park Keeper (798688)
 - 10.50 Freaky Friday (1995) Shelley Long and Gaby Hoffmann star in this comedy about a mother and daughter who magically change places for a day. Directed by Melanie Mayron (T) (5804341)
 - 12.30pm Countdown to Tomorrow The making of the 19th James Bond film, *Tomorrow Never Dies* (4305997)
 - 1.20 News (T) and weather (3343530)
 - 1.30 Batman: Mask of the Phantasm (1993) Animated adventure with the caped crusader (T) (5951268)
 - 2.40 The Sword in the Stone (1963) Disney animated feature-length film of the legend of King Arthur (187249)
 - 4.10 The Canterville Ghost Ian Richardson stars in this adaptation of Oscar Wilde's comic tale about an American family who move into an historic house, where they encounter the resident ghost. (T) (9741602)
 - 5.40 News (T) and weather (184648)
 - 5.50 Emmerdale (T) (335972)



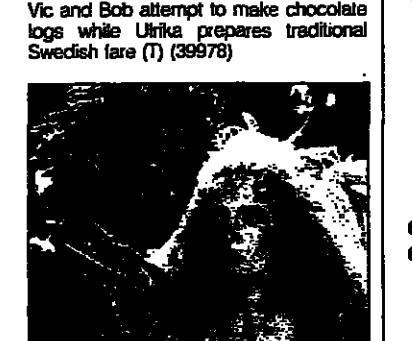
Test pilot Mel Gibson (6.20pm)

- 6.20 Forever Young (1992) Romantic fantasy with Mel Gibson and Jamie Lee Curtis. In 1938, a test-pilot, believing his girlfriend to be dead, agrees to be cryogenically frozen for one year. However, something goes wrong and he is left undiscovered, until he is accidentally thawed by a couple of boys 50 years later. Directed by Steve Miner (T) (7010888)
- 6.20 Coronation Street Kevin has some bad news for Natalie (T) (331711)
- 6.50 News (T) and weather (221442)
- 9.00 Edna Kisses It Better Megastar Dame Edna Everage tends the ills of the famous. Her celebrity patients include Elton MacPherson, Melinda Messenger, Cliff Richard, Rolf Harris, Lord Archer and David Seaman (T) (1317)
- 10.00 Dances with Wolves (1990) Kevin Costner's Oscar-winning epic western. After becoming a Civil War hero, a Union officer is posted to an abandoned South Dakota fort. As time goes by, a tribe of Sioux Indians assimilate the white soldier into their lives. Starring and directed by Kevin Costner (T) (3590831)
- 12.00am 10 (1979) Dudley Moore stars as a middle-aged Hollywood songwriter who becomes obsessed with the woman of his dreams. Directed by Blake Edwards (5003079)
- 3.30 Cuffine and Macdonald's Movie Club (T) (5745588)
- 3.55 Sound Bites (9178089)
- 4.05 Comedy Central (2016404)
- 5.00 Coronation Street (T) (78089)
- 5.30 Teletext (583553)
- 5.55 TSN News (5806640)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 1.00am Box Office America (4113253)
 - 1.50 Baywatch Late (40321)
 - 3.35 Cats: Please Turn Over (8700553)
 - 5.05 Cuffine and Macdonald's Movie Club (3455027)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except: No variations
- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:
 - 5.00am Look and Cook (78089)
- ANGLIA**
- As HTV West except: No variations
- S4C**
- Starts: 6.00 Dumb and Dumber (4594201)
 - 6.10 Ovide (4386559)
 - 6.35 Madeline (5802930)
 - 7.00 The Baby's First Steps (58423)
 - 7.30 Two Stupid Dogs (37930)
 - 8.00 The Big Breakfast (17688)
 - 10.00 Zig and Zag's Big Morning (8733423)
 - 10.01 Happy Days (10775)
 - 10.30 The Morning Line (5858572)
 - 11.15 Ant and Dec's Georgie Christmas (1658555)
 - 12.00 Smudge (83323)
 - 12.30pm Slot Malthin (46611220)
 - 12.45 Pingu (4661675)
 - 1.00 Racing from Kempton Park and Leopardstown (5358249)
 - 3.20 Film: Ebbie (45071648)
 - 5.00 5 Pump (5803317)
 - 5.25 Gogs (8733030)
 - 5.40 Crefyddau'r Byd Wedi Eu Harfmeiddio (173607)
 - 6.00 Newyddion (173591)
 - 6.05 Hero (581210)
 - 7.00 Llynn Olaf (3775)
 - 8.00 Penllyd Hapus (4930)
 - 8.30 Cefn Gwlad: Aelwyd Bro Gwertyl (58249)
 - 9.30 Newyddion (834591)
 - 9.45 Garol Nadodig (198201)
 - 10.00 Brookside (76688)
 - 11.30 Jo Brand Burns Rubber (87355)
 - 12.30am Film: Safe (5647737)
 - 2.40 Film: Love at First Sight (714486)

- RTÉ1**
- Starts: 6.00 Film: A Woman of Paris (48173404)
 - 9.20 Film: Terzan and His Mate (4697404)
 - 10.55 Musicals, Great Musicals (12358442)
 - 12.05pm The Golden Girls (31392648)
 - 12.30 Coronation Street (1252220)
 - 1.05 Home and Away Special (13803423)
 - 1.40 Film: Oliver (4788084)
 - 4.20 Film: One Christmas (4606572)
 - 8.01 Six-One (5807125)
 - 8.15-8.30 Cartoon Time (5452030)
 - 8.30 Coronation Street (7357978)
 - 8.55 Film: Jurassic Park (20301442)
 - 9.15 News and Weather (2317978)
 - 9.35 Upwardly Mobile (3681305)
 - 10.05 Film: Four Weddings and a Funeral (4707835)
 - 12.20am Film: Trading Places (28537535)
 - 2.25 Film: Come (2775176)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 5.55am Dumb and Dumber (T) (6017510)
 - 6.10 Ovide (T) (4386559)
 - 6.35 Madeline (T) (5802930)
 - 7.00 The Baby's First Steps (T) (58423)
 - 7.30 Two Stupid Dogs (T) (37930)
 - 8.00 The Big Breakfast (T) (17688)
 - 10.00 Zig and Zag's Big Morning (T) (8733423)
 - 10.01 Happy Days (T) (10775)
 - 10.30 The Morning Line (T) (5858572)
 - 11.15 Jack the Giant Killer (1961) with Kerwin Matthews and Judi Meredith Children's fantasy adventure directed by Nathan Jura (23501930)
 - 1.00pm Racing from Kempton Park and Leopardstown (T) (5358249)
 - 3.10 The Land That Time Forgot (1975) with Doug McClure, John McNery and Susan Penhaligon Sci-fi adventure about survivors from a First World War ship who discover a legendary land. Directed by Kevin Connor (5801249)
 - 5.00 Bewitched It is Christmas and as usual Samantha's nose gets her into trouble (T) (5288274)
 - 5.30 The Light Lunch Christmas Special Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins are joined by Vic Reeves, Bob Mortimer and Ulrika Jonsson from *Shooting Stars*. Vic and Bob attempt to make chocolate logs while Ulrika prepares traditional Swedish fare (T) (39978)



Jennings and Duncan (6.30pm)

- 6.30 A Midsummer Night's Dream (1995) Adapted from the Royal Shakespeare stage production of the romantic comedy, starring Alex Jennings and Lindsay Duncan. Directed by Adrian Noble (T) (25862)
- 8.30 Brookside A feature-length episode of the Merseyside soap. Jimmy begins to accept that he can't prevent Lindsey from seeing Barry. Jacqui worries that Ron will find out about her surrogacy deal. Max gives Julia a driving lesson. But will he live to tell the tale? (T) (48928)
- 10.00 Neil (1994) with Liam Neeson, Jodie Foster and Natasha Richardson. A doctor discovers a fully-grown wild child who has had no human contact except her mother. Directed by Michael Apted (6093317)
- 12.05am Le Confessionnel (1994) with Lothaire Bluteau and Kristin Scott Thomas. A man returns home to Quebec from China on the death of his father and learns hidden truths about his family's past. Directed by Robert LePage. In French with English subtitles (600263)
- 2.00 I Confess (1953, b/w) with Montgomery Clift and Anne Baxter. A priest cannot break the sanctity of the confessional after hearing a murderer confess. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock (T) (171718)
- 3.45 Strange Cargo (1940, b/w) with Clark Gable and Joan Crawford. Eight convicts escape from Devil's Island. Directed by Frank Borzage (T) (585640)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder N 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videotext decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder N 63 are: 10.52075 GHz sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
- 6.00am Dappledown Farm (T) (7787775)
 - 6.30 The Wind in the Willows (53307620)
 - 7.00 Mr Men and Little Miss (30278713)
 - 7.30 Winnie's House (4859373)
 - 7.40 Alvin and the Chipmunks (5809330)
 - 8.00 Havalakoz (8453797)
 - 8.30 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (5802288)
 - 9.00 The Princess and the Goblin Animation featuring the voices of Peggy Mount, Victor Spinetti, Claire Bloom, Joss Ackland, Sally Ann Marsh, Mollie Sugden, Roy Kinnear, Nik Mayall and Peter Murray (8198292)
 - 10.30 Stickin' Around (5808882) 11.00 Eco Warriors Special (4298822) 11.30 Wishbone (4295911) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (520774) 12.30pm Family Affairs (T) (1252220) 1.00 5 News Update (8659415)
 - 1.05 Football Special Highlights from some of the year's top European and international action. Featuring World Cup qualifiers between England v Poland; Scotland v Latvia and Ireland v Belgium. UEFA cup: Arsenal and Aston Villa. Cup Winners' cup: Chelsea v Slavia Bratislava. Champions' League: Newcastle United v Croatia Zegreb and the pre-season tournament — the Umbro Cup (53709152)
 - 6.00 100 Per Cent (4415997)
 - 6.30 Family Affairs Annie and Elsa face up to the truth concerning Jack and Maria's affair. Tim and Holly share a passionate kiss (T) (8890535)



Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh (7.10pm)

- 7.10 Gone with the Wind (1939) Epic drama set during the American Civil War starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable (T) (5802801)
- 11.10 Lasec The Dark Zone Stories Zev must find a supply of prehistoric to protect Zev from the dark. Last in series (2036307)
- 1.00am The Happy Hooker (1975) Offbeat comedy with Lynn Redgrave as a New York madam (5758592)
- 2.50 Smoke Signal (1955) with Dana Andrews, Piper Laurie and Rex Reason. The cavalry arrives at its new fort to find it under attack by Indians. Directed by John Hopper (8273758)
- 4.20 The Plough and the Stars (1936, b/w) with Barbara Stanwyck and Preston Foster. Charting the Irish Rising through the eyes of a man selected by the rebels to fight in Dublin. Directed by John Ford (255131)
- 5.30 100 Per Cent (T) (7744080)

- For further listings see Sky 1's Vision**
- SKY 1**
- 6.00am Morning Story (581171) 9.00am News (10048) 10.00 Andrew Wild (58794) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12.00am News (7206) 1.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 2.00am News (7206) 3.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 4.00am News (7206) 5.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 6.00am News (7206) 7.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 8.00am News (7206) 9.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 10.00am News (7206) 11.00am The Day After Tomorrow (7206) 12



CITY QUIZ WHIZ 37

How did you fare in our brain-teaser? We have all the answers

BUSINESS

FESTIVE MAGIC 38

Is the seasonal spending splurge losing its lustre?

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26 1997

Hamanaka offers Sumitomo \$800,000 redress

By Jason Nisse

YASUO HAMANAKA, the rogue trader whose dealings cost Sumitomo Corporation \$2.6 billion (£1.55 billion), has offered to pay his former employer \$800,000 that he had kept in a Swiss bank account.

The offer came in a Tokyo court yesterday, as Mr Hamanaka was questioned by prosecutors before being sentenced in the new year. Mr Hamanaka, who was nicknamed "Mr Five Per Cent" because he once controlled that proportion of the world's copper market, has pleaded guilty to charges of fraud and forgery in connection with the losses incurred by Sumitomo.

Mr Hamanaka had earlier admitted that Saburo Shimizu, his former boss and business partner, had given him over \$1.5 million which he had deposited in an account at Union Bank of Switzerland in Zurich in the early 1990s.

In October the Swiss authorities told Sumitomo, which has been suing Mr Hamanaka, that it could confiscate anything in that account, but the group has yet to take any action. The existence of this secret account emerged only last June, a year after the Sumitomo scandal came to a head.

In court, Mr Hamanaka said only \$800,000 was left in the account. Asked by prosecutors if he intended to pay any compensation to Sumitomo, he said: "Yes. The amount that I can compensate is limited to the outstanding balance of my account at UBS in Switzerland."

Mr Hamanaka also detailed how he managed to get into the situation where he hid billions of dollars of unauthorised trading on the copper markets using forged documentation. He said that after racking up dealing losses he increased the level of unauthorised trading during 1994 and 1995 in the hope of recovering the deficit. The full extent of losses emerged only in June 1996.

Mr Hamanaka is due in court again on February 2.



Yasuo Hamanaka, accompanied by prosecutors, shortly after his arrest in October 1996. He is due to appear in court again on February 2

Eurotunnel adds to run of failures over targets

By Fraser Nelson

EUROTUNNEL has failed to meet its traffic targets for the third year running, falling at least 10 per cent short of the goals it set for 1997 only seven months ago.

The company, which operates the Channel Tunnel and Le Shuttle service, will confirm next month that a hectic Christmas rush has failed to compensate for a lacklustre performance through the year.

The disappointing figures will intensify fears that the company is ill-placed to meet its plan to break into profit and to start rewarding its

shareholders with dividend payments by 2006.

London & Continental Railways (LCR), which runs the Eurostar service from London Waterloo, has also missed the 1997 target for passenger numbers. It is set to finish the year some 700,000 short of the 6.7 million journeys that Eurotunnel had expected.

By the end of November, Eurostar's running 1997 total was 5.51 million passengers, against its target of 6.6 million. After last year's fracas, where hundreds of travellers were told to cancel trips to make way for 3,000 servicemen and women returning from Germany, its December total is unlikely to exceed 500,000.

As part of Eurotunnel's plans to mount a £4.4 billion debt-for-equity swap, it pre-

dicted that it would take 2.51 million cars through the tunnel in 1997. In the year to November, the running total was 2.04 million. Even if Le Shuttle was fully booked in December, the total would fall far short of the "downside case" in its prospectus.

The tourist coach service is set to prove the most embarrassing failure. Eurotunnel predicted that it would carry 80,000 coaches this year but by the end of November had only managed 56,500.

The 1997 figures, to be announced in the second week of January, will undermine confidence in Eurotunnel's 1998 projections, which promise a 30 per cent jump in cars using Le Shuttle.

The City has been sceptical of Eurotunnel's forecasts. One transport analyst said: "This

leaves you with very little faith in the company's ability to forecast. Whoever compiled these forecasts would never get a job in the City."

Although Eurotunnel has failed to live up to its traffic forecasts for the past three years, its followers had expected the company to have improved. As *The Times* reported on Christmas Eve, London & Continental has already fallen behind its construction timetable for the proposed high-speed link between the tunnel and London.

It had promised to find contractors for £500 million of work as part of the £1.4 billion of public money it has been given to mastermind the link. Coupled with the poor traffic figures, the delay will undermine its chances of raising £5.4 billion in debt and equity

through a flotation next year. However, dismal traffic figures, Eurotunnel's revenue will be protected by a minimum payment scheme agreed by the rail users. This will protect the company's top line until 2006, delivering a minimum £500 million of sales this year and £636 million next year. But this will be absorbed by interest payments on its £8.6 billion of debt, which is expected to lead to a £316 million pre-tax loss this year.

Christian Cambier, the dis-

IMF agrees emergency \$10bn deal with Korea

By Jason Nisse

THE International Monetary Fund rode to the rescue of South Korea over Christmas by agreeing to an emergency \$10 billion (£6 billion) package to stabilise the economy.

The payment — an advance on the \$60 billion bail out of the South Korean economy agreed earlier this month with the IMF — will come in two stages, with \$2 billion being paid almost immediately and another \$8 billion in the new year. This latest package comes on top of a \$3 billion stabilisation loan, agreed by the World Bank on Tuesday.

Thirteen leading nations are putting up money, with the UK contributing \$400 million and the US \$1.7 billion. Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, said it was "very highly likely" the money would be repaid by South Korea in the not too distant future.

The IMF deal came in exchange for a wide-ranging reform package agreed by Kim Dae Jung, the President-elect, which included the opening up of the country's financial markets to foreign banks, a bail out for leading domestic banks, as well as labour market reforms. The package was greeted with relief in Seoul as Mr Kim had expressed worries about commercial banks refusing to roll over debt repayments coming due from South Korea.

The financial crisis in South Korea has seen the won collapse to nearly half its value against the US dollar during December. However, it strengthened on Christmas Eve and dealers are hoping for further stability.

There was also optimism in Tokyo, where reforms announced by the Ministry of Finance covering the way commercial banks account for their investments in Japanese stocks brought a surge in the Nikkei index yesterday.

The ministry's proposals allow banks and insurance companies to revalue their holdings of securities without having to adjust their earnings to reflect the changes. Previously any fall in the prices below the book values recorded by the banks would bring a loss, and this prompted banks to support share

prices artificially. The Nikkei rose 2.51 per cent, to 15,300.1, with the banking sectors strong in spite of downgradings of two leading Japanese banks by Standard & Poor's, the credit agency, and the placing of four more on credit watch.

However, brokers were still saying that the market could fall as banks start to implement the changes.

Leading article, page 17

Harrods and Boots to be sued

By Jason Nisse

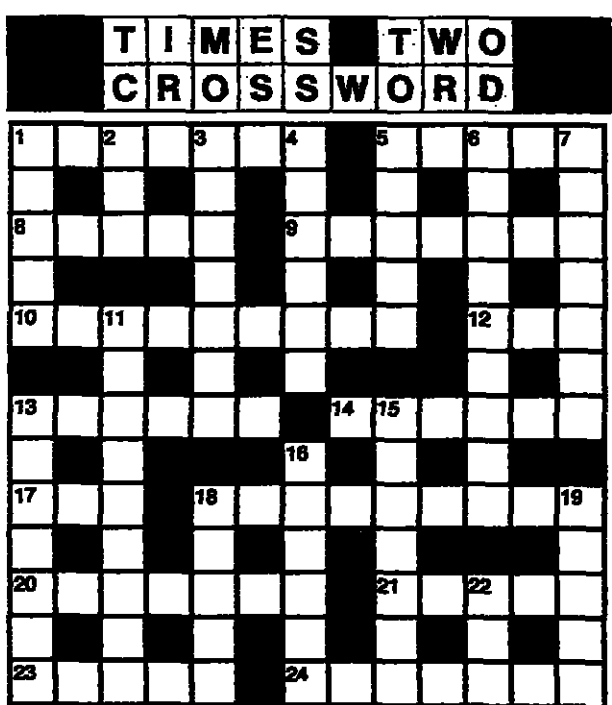
HARRODS and Boots are both to be sued for allegedly copying designs from small firms to make Christmas novelties. The two cases, which are unrelated, are part of a campaign to try to stop infringement of copyright.

Saint Nicolas, a small group based in Fulham, southwest London, is to take action against Harrods, the Knightsbridge store owned by Mohamed Al Fayed, over Christmas decorations featuring Life Guards, Scots Guards and red telephone boxes. It has been selling these to Harrods since 1989 but received no orders this year.

Then Nicola Barry, Saint Nicolas's founder, discovered similar items for sale in Harrods. The store says these are similar to those on sale around the UK and there has been no copyright infringement.

Boots is to be sued by Bliss over gift items which Bliss says are strikingly similar to those it supplied for many years — largely recipe books and utensil holders. This contract was terminated.

Boots says that the articles are completely different.



No 1286

ACROSS

- 1 Part of bird; turn (eat) (7)
- 5 Arms and legs (5)
- 8 Soviet camp system (5)
- 9 Warship; pleasure boat (7)
- 10 Today, Christmas was (9)
- 12 Meadow (3)
- 13 To wallow; a jumble (6)
- 14 An aggressive cock (6)
- 17 A sheep; computer storage (3)
- 18 Toupee (9)
- 20 A worm: *Dun, Nell (anag.)* (7)
- 21 Weapon; plunder (5)
- 23 Weighty (5)
- 24 Had a try (7)

DOWN

- 1 Such pudding we 2 like (anag.) (5)
- 2 Everyone (6)
- 3 Practice of cleanliness (7)
- 4 Slowly go away, down (6)
- 5 Poor, mean; infested (5)
- 6 White-berried parasite (9)
- 7 Ironie scorn (7)
- 11 Sp. city, province; Wellington victory, 1812 (9)
- 13 Belligerent braves on it (7)
- 15 Hopes to attain (7)
- 16 Centre (6)
- 18 Red-berried tree; girl's name (5)
- 19 Make corrections to (5)
- 22 Insect; run away (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1285

- ACROSS: 1 Night 4 Copious 8 Christmas 9 Tea 10 Exit 11 Mutinous 13 Cohort 14 Placed 17 Sympathy 19 Hard 22 IOU 23 Uncounted 24 Theesess
- DOWN: 1 Nacre 2 Garnish 3 Tusk 4 Campers 5 Possible 6 Outrigger 7 Spurred 12 Creature 13 Casulist 15 Chateau 16 Shucks 18 Mouse 20 Duncie 21 Inch

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE!
The Times Crossword Book 2 £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 20 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 30 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 40 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 50 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 60 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 70 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 80 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 90 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 100 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 110 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 120 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 130 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 140 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 150 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 160 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 170 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 180 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 190 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 200 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 210 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 220 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 230 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 240 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 250 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 260 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 270 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 280 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 290 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 300 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 310 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 320 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 330 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 340 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 350 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 360 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 370 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 380 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 390 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 400 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 410 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 420 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 430 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 440 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 450 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 460 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 470 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 480 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 490 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 500 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 510 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 520 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 530 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 540 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 550 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 560 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 570 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 580 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 590 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 600 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 610 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 620 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 630 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 640 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 650 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 660 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 670 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 680 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 690 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 700 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 710 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 720 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 730 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 740 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 750 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 760 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 770 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 780 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 790 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 800 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 810 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 820 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 830 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 840 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 850 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 860 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 870 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 880 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 890 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 900 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 910 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 920 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 930 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 940 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 950 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 960 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 970 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 980 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 990 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1000 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1010 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1020 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1030 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1040 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1050 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1060 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1070 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1080 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1090 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1100 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1110 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1120 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1130 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1140 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1150 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1160 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1170 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1180 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1190 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1200 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1210 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1220 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1230 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1240 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1250 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1260 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1270 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1280 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1290 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1300 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1310 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1320 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1330 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1340 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1350 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1360 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1370 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1380 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1390 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1400 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1410 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1420 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1430 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1440 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1450 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1460 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1470 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1480 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1490 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1500 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1510 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1520 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1530 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1540 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1550 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1560 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1570 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1580 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1590 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1600 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1610 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1620 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1630 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1640 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1650 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1660 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1670 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1680 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1690 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1700 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1710 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1720 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1730 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1740 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1750 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1760 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1770 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1780 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1790 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1800 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1810 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1820 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1830 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1840 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1850 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1860 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1870 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1880 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1890 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1900 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1910 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1920 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1930 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1940 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1950 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1960 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1970 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1980 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 1990 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2000 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2010 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2020 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2030 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2040 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2050 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2060 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2070 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2080 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2090 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2100 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2110 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2120 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2130 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2140 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2150 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2160 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2170 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2180 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2190 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2200 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2210 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2220 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2230 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2240 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2250 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2260 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2270 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2280 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2290 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2300 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2310 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2320 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2330 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2340 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2350 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2360 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2370 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2380 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2390 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2400 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2410 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2420 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2430 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2440 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2450 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2460 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2470 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2480 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2490 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2500 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2510 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2520 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2530 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2540 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2550 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2560 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2570 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2580 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2590 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2600 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2610 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2620 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2630 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2640 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2650 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2660 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2670 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2680 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2690 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2700 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2710 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2720 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2730 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2740 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2750 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2760 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2770 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2780 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2790 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2800 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2810 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2820 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2830 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2840 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2850 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2860 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2870 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2880 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2890 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2900 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2910 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2920 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2930 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2940 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2950 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2960 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2970 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2980 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 2990 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3000 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3010 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3020 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3030 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3040 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3050 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3060 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3070 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3080 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3090 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3100 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3110 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3120 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3130 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3140 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3150 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3160 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3170 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3180 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3190 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3200 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3210 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3220 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3230 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3240 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3250 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3260 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3270 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3280 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3290 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3300 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3310 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3320 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3330 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3340 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3350 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3360 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3370 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3380 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3390 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3400 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3410 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3420 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3430 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3440 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3450 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3460 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3470 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3480 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3490 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3500 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3510 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3520 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3530 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3540 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3550 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3560 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3570 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3580 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3590 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3600 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3610 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3620 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3630 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3640 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3650 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3660 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3670 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3680 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3690 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3700 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3710 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3720 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3730 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3740 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3750 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3760 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3770 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3780 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3790 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3800 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3810 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3820 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3830 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3840 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3850 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3860 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3870 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3880 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3890 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3900 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3910 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3920 Crysme £2.99. The Times Crossword Book 3930 Crysme £2.99. The Times Cross